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118th gets call: Begins mobilization process

SPEC. JESSE J. STANLEY JR.
65th PCH

Answering the call to arms, the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, of Newington, began its first steps in mobilization at Camp Rowland. During the days-long process, the Soldiers of the unit were given physicals, filled out paperwork and made the necessary preparations for deployment.

Once the 130 Soldiers finish the initial preparations they will leave Connecticut for Fort Drum, NY.

Once they reach Fort Drum the Soldiers will stay there for several weeks to continue preparations for deploying to Kuwait. From there they will be able to provide relief for other Soldiers who have been in theatre for more than a year already.

The 118th Area Support Medical Battalion will provide level one and level two health care to Soldiers in Iraq.

"This is everything up to surgery, from prescriptions to IVs," said Lt. Col. Richard S. Young, Battalion Surgeon and head of pediatrics at St. Raphael's Hospital, New Haven.

Surgery and other procedures are forwarded to a Combat Area Support Hospital (CASH).

The 118th is able to provide such a broad area of support because the Soldiers that fill the unit are trained in virtually all areas of medicine. Half of the Soldiers deploying are Medical Specialists (91W). The rest are made up of other medical personnel and support Soldiers.

The unit has Soldiers that everything from doctors and nurses to EMTs and mental health professionals. The battalion is able to provide dental, optical, and medical support in theatre.

The support personnel include mechanics, cooks, supply specialists and administrative specialists, some of which were from other units and volunteered to join the 118th in its deployment.

There are wide ranges of people in the unit, married or single, young or old. Some are leaving behind wives and children.

"I am looking forward to it in some ways," said Pvt. 2 Kelly L. Etcheto. "The only thing that bothers me is leaving my daughter for so long."

Some have experience from the previous war in Iraq that they will



Soldiers of the 118th Medical Battalion go through one of the administrative stations during the unit's mobilization weekend.
(Photo by Spec. Jesse J. Stanley Jr., 65th PCH)

bring with them and use to aid the Soldiers being in the desert the first time.

See 118TH DEPLOYS Page 4

Bush signs defense authorization act into law

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Calling it a landmark piece of legislation that sends the clear message that "Americans stand with the United States military," President George W. Bush signed the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act in a Pentagon ceremony here Nov. 24.

A bipartisan group of legislators and Department of Defense civilian and uniformed leaders attended the ceremony.

The act authorizes DOD to spend \$401.3 billion in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

"We will do all it takes to keep our military strong, to keep the peace and to keep the American people secure," Bush said.

The money is in addition to the \$87 billion supplemental bill passed in early November.

"The war on terror is different than any war America has ever fought," Bush said.

"Our enemies seek to inflict mass casualties without fielding mass armies. They hide in the shadows, and they are often hard to strike. The terrorists are cunning and ruthless and dangerous, as the world saw on Sept. 11, 2001, and again in Istanbul last week."

But the terrorists now are facing the United States and its allies, "and this threat to civilization will be defeated," Bush said.

The new threats mean the U.S. military must be fast, smart and agile, Bush said.

"Right now, America's armed forces are the best-trained, best-equipped and best-prepared in the world, and this administration will keep it that way," he said.

The legislation supports the force with an across-the-board pay raise that averages 4.1 percent, Bush said. It extends the current payment of \$225 and \$250 per month for hazardous duty/imminent danger pay and separation pay. It reduces housing costs for those living off base, and it keeps up the robust bonus-pay program that has served the all-volunteer force so well.

"Those who risk their lives for our liberty deserve to be fairly paid and fairly treated,

See BUSH SIGNS Page 22

Community rallies to show support for troops

SPEC. JESSE J. STANLEY JR.
65th PCH

When a community steps forward to show support for troops, it can go a long way in boosting morale. The town of Canton has taken the steps to show it cares.

When Elizabeth Cotterman heard that troops overseas felt forgotten, she took steps to remedy that she said.

"We all remember them and what they do for us," she said. "There isn't a day that goes by that they aren't in our hearts and prayers."

"I was heart sickened to think that our Soldiers thought we forgot them," said

First Selectman Mary B. Tomolonius. "We want them to know we think about them constantly."

In less than three weeks Cotterman managed to gather overwhelming support from churches, schools, businesses and members of the community.

The goal was to send a care package to every Connecticut Soldier overseas. This would mean that more than 550 boxes would have to be put together and several thousand dollars would have to be raised to cover the shipping.

With help from the National Guard Family Program, Cotterman was able to meet her goal and get the packages where they had

to go overseas.

More than 100 volunteers, ages 6 to 60, gathered at the Canton Community Center on a Sunday morning to pack boxes and send them on their way. The U.S. Post office opened on Sunday especially for this project and the employees volunteered their time to ensure the packages could get to the Soldiers by Christmas.

Each box contained items such as candy, chips, cookies, magazines, stationary, CD's, DVDs, personal hygiene items and letters from Canton school children.

"It makes our job a lot easier when the community steps up like this," said 1st Lt. Linda K. Hedenberg.

Connecticut Guardian

360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795
Phone: (860) 524-4857
DSN: 636-7857
FAX: (860) 548-3207

E-Mail:
CTGUARDIAN@ct.ngb.army.mil

Captain-General
Gov. John G. Rowland

The Adjutant General
Commanding General, CTNG
Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno

Assistant Adjutant General, CTARNG
Brig. Gen. I. J. Zembrzuski

Assistant Adjutant General, CTANG
Col. Thaddeus J. Martin

State Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond P. Zastaury

State Command Chief Master Sergeant
Chief Master Sgt. Wanda Wawruck

State Public Affairs Officer
Connecticut Guardian Managing Editor
Maj. John Whitford

State Senior Public Affairs NCO
Connecticut Guardian Editor
Layout and Design
Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

Assistant Layout and Design Editor
Spec. Jesse. J. Stanley
65th PCH

Contributors

Det. 1, 65th Press Camp HQ, CTARNG

Maj. George Worrall, III
103rd FW PAO. CTANG

103rd Communications Flight, CTANG

First Company Governors Horse Guard

Second Company Governors Horse Guard

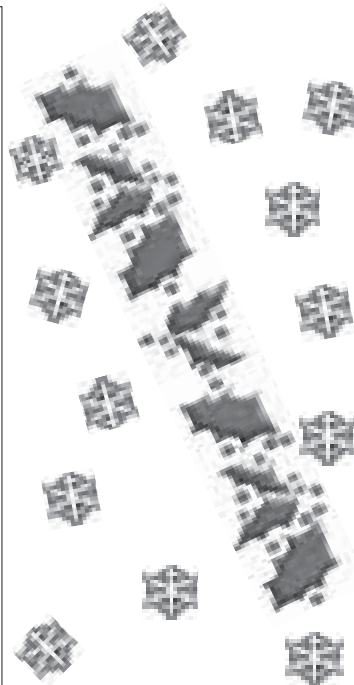
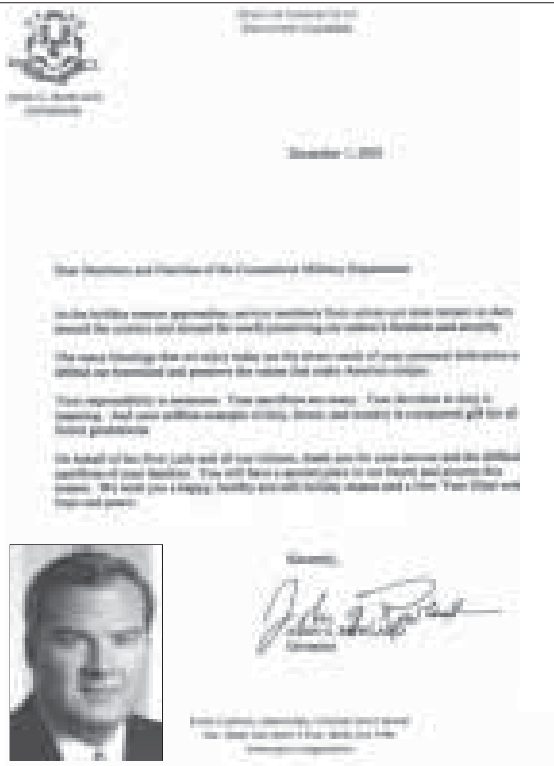
First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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To the members and families of the Connecticut Marine Department

As Americans, families come together to celebrate this holiday season, reflected in the New Year, and express the joys of life and family. An acknowledgment that they are able to do so is the result of some sacrifices and hard work.

Idea and nature of today's National Guard—offspring continues to discover the true meaning of protecting our nation's freedom. Our nation called and Continental men first. Since if you will return to us they throughout the holidays in the United States and abroad—military operations and guarding our borders. Your dedication and personal sacrifice continues to preserve liberty and uphold the legacy of our founders. Faith and more faith, you contribute the true meaning of the citizen-soldier.

Example: Let's visit you a thousand times, and we will be doing more. May the One
 Blessing you for a real happiness.



John A. Ryan
 WILLIAM & JENNIFER
 Major General
 The Adjutant General
 State of Connecticut

Editor's Note: Perspectives appears on page 19 this month.

Congressman Simmons visits the 247th Engineers in Iraq

Sgt. 1st Class John W. Lane
247th ENGINEERS

Mosul, Iraq — Since their arrival in Mosul last May to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, the ten Guardsmen of the 247th Engineer Detachment from New London, Connecticut have received more than their fair share of visitors. In the thirsty land of Iraq, the unit specialization in water well drilling has piqued the interest of many VIPs touring the northern area.

But if you ask the military men and women stationed in Iraq how they feel about VIP visits you're liable to hear a collective groan. Soldiers here have learned such visits mean missed meals and long hours of waiting as schedules slip and plans are rearranged. Some might even venture the opinion that meetings with visiting dignitaries are no more than carefully managed 'dog and pony shows' that provide little opportunity for genuine dialogue.

So when the word went out that the soldiers of the 247th Engineer Detachment were to prepare for a congressional delegation visit on Oct. 19, the reaction was predictable. Eyes rolled. Excuses were made. Boots scuffed the sand. The attitudes toward the visit were visible in the grimaces of those chosen and the smiles of those spared.

Attitudes were about to change.

This visit would prove to be different. This time the soldiers of the 247th Engineer Detachment were to be visited by one of

their own. A veteran of the Vietnam War and retired reservist with more than 37 years of military experience, this man was remembered as the one who presented the unit with a large Connecticut state flag during the quiet family sendoff for the 247th last March, a flag that now flies proudly over the unit's compound in Mosul. This VIP was Connecticut's 2nd District Representative, Congressman Robert Simmons.

After casting his vote on the 87 billion dollar supplemental military spending bill, Rep. Simmons caught the long flight from Andrews Air Force Base with representatives from seven other states and territories. Stops in Kuwait and Baghdad to visit other Connecticut Guard units left little time for sleep, yet he arrived in Mosul full of energy, eager to learn how the unit was faring and how the soldiers and their families were coping with the extended deployment.

Rep. Simmons had done his homework. He knew the unit and many of the soldier's names. He brought newspaper clippings and phone cards. He brought his concern. There was no entourage here, just the Congressman and a notebook. For a solid two hours, between bites of cold food, he spoke with each soldier. He asked pointed questions, swapped stories, and wrote furiously.

Rep. Simmons interest was both personal and professional. He was as interested in the effects of the deployment on family finances

and the emergency leave prospects for a soldier whose wife was experiencing a difficult pregnancy as he was about equipment readiness and support the unit was receiving to accomplish their mission and return home. Along the way he took the time to learn the names and details of soldier's families, promising to contact them when he returned.

He also shared his point of view. Rep. Simmons, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, was angry about the lack of body armor for Guardsman and Reservists, about the shortage of spare parts, and the apparent double standard that permits many active duty soldiers to return to the states while Guardsman and Reservists are forced to remain in Iraq. He also voiced his deep concern about the effect of the extended deployment on soldiers, families, employers, and the future strength of the National Guard and Reserve system.

Rep. Simmons' visit did not end with the shaking of hands as he departed Mosul. Within a few days of his return to Washington, phones began to ring in Connecticut. As each family was called, messages and issues pertaining to that family were relayed and discussed. E-mail was sent containing photographs of the visit. Finally, on Nov. 2, the Congressman and Connecticut state military officials gathered together all the families of the soldiers he met during his trip to Iraq for a meeting in Hartford. There



Connecticut 2nd District Representative Robert Simmons during his October 2003 visit with soldiers of the 247th Engineer Detachment (New London) in Mosul, Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John W. Lane, 247th Eng.)

Rep. Simmons shared firsthand the details of his visit and the families were informed of progress made on issues raised in Kuwait and Iraq.

Representative Robert Simmons came to Iraq prepared. He came to listen, he came to learn, and he followed through. For future VIP visitors to Mosul, the bar has just been raised a bit higher.



The Connecticut State flag flies over the 247th Engineer Detachment unit compound in Mosul, Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John W. Lane, 247th Eng.)

When a unit deploys there are the things...

SPEC. JESSE J. STANLEY JR.
65th PCH

...you take with you



"Imagine asking your girlfriend's father Tuesday if you can marry her Friday," said Spec. Pedro J. Santiago.

This is the situation he faced after hearing that the unit he is part of, the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion was mobilizing for deployment. Not only that, but his

girlfriend, now wife, is also part of the unit.

"We get to go on an 18-month honeymoon now," joked Spec. Jessica L. Santiago.

The family was very supportive of the couple, who had been dating for more than three years.

Once Pedro had permission, the wedding was planned and put on in three days.

"Everyone we dealt with was very supportive from the people who made our cake to the person who did the flowers," he said. "They all did a great job and with short notice."

Usually a hard part of being deployed is being away from a significant other, this is not the case here.

"We get to go together," said Jessica. "A lot of people do not get that chance."

"I think the hardest part will be worrying about each other when we are out in the field," said Pedro. "Instead of wondering how it is over there and watching it all on TV we will actually be there and know what it is really like."

When the couple gets home they said they would go on a real honeymoon, "somewhere cold," they joked.

...you sacrifice

While her husband was home on R&R 1st

Lt. Elizabeth C. Muravnick found out that she was being deployed with the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion. She is a platoon leader in the unit. Her husband, Sgt. Kevin A. Muravnick, is in the 143rd Military Police Company currently stationed in Baghdad.

"After 9/11 I wanted to do something to help," said Elizabeth. "Now I am getting that chance."

A married couple deployed at the same time faces new challenges.

During the time both are away they need to arrange for someone to take care of their apartment, said Elizabeth.

Since she is leaving toward the end of her husband's deployment it means that they will be apart for nearly two years, she added.

Feb. 11 is the Muravnick's wedding anniversary; they will be spending it in Iraq and hopefully they will be able to run into each other, said Elizabeth.

...you miss

Staff Sgt. Charles A. Deer, a treatment platoon squad leader in the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, said he is looking forward for the deployment.

"I knew it was coming, it just comes at a hard time," he said.

His wife, Sgt. Delores Deer is also part of

the 118th ASMB, but she will not be going to the desert with her husband. This is



because she is carrying the couple's first child.

"The hardest part about leaving is not being able to see the birth of my first born," said Deer.

Their child is due June 15.

Doctor leaves hospital, pediatrics for the desert

SPEC. JESSE J. STANLEY JR.
65th PCH

Lt. Col. Richard S.K. Young, battalion surgeon for the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion, is known to many others as Dr. Young, chairman of pediatrics at the Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven, Conn.

His deployment with the 118th takes him from his work in pediatrics and places him with the soldiers on the field in Iraq.

He said it is hard to leave his current job to go overseas but he is looking forward to it. His employer has been nothing but

supportive he said.

Young takes with him to Iraq, not only his soldier skills, but also his 30 years of medical expertise.

"I am looking forward to the deployment," he said. "I think it will be a great experience for the unit. Past deployments have helped bring everyone together. I am sure we will do a great job."

Does Dr. Young think he might be able to use some of his pediatrics skills in Iraq?

"We are there to support the troops and provide medical support for them," he said.

"I do not know if we will be working with the Iraqi people. It would be good if we did though."

Young has a wife and three grown children, one of who graduated from West Point in 2000.

His daughter, Capt. Elizabeth Young of the 272nd Military Police Co., is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in February.

Young does not know if he will see his daughter when she gets there, but is hopeful that he might.



118th gets call: Begins mobilization process

From Page 1

"I am going to tell my Soldiers to bring things to keep their minds busy and remind them of home," said Staff Sgt. John M. Polonio.

Polonio spent time in Iraq during Desert Storm.

He is going to bring things to make his stay there more comfortable he said.

The morale in the unit is high as the preparations to head overseas continue.

"It is what we are trained to do," said Pvt. 2 Steve M. Martin. "I am looking forward to using my training and helping Soldiers over there as much as I can."

"The unit has a lot of cohesion," said 1st Sgt. Henry R. Alston. "You can count on them to do a good job."

"Past deployments have helped bring everyone together," said Young.

The morale in this unit is at a new high," said Spec. Angelica J. Ward, supply specialist and armorer. "We have been together so much, it is like we are a big family. We are ready to go over and perform our jobs. It will be a good experience."

The 118th is going to play an important role in Iraq. They will ensure that proper medical treatment is offered to Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen.



Soldiers went through many stations during the mobilization process at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)

CORRECTION: In the November 2003 edition of *The Connecticut Guardian*, an article on page 10, titled "Reporting from the front: A soldier with the 248th tells their story," incorrectly identified the unit as the 248th. The author, 2nd Lt. Christopher Morgan, is a member of the 242nd Engineer Company of the CTARNG who is voluntarily deployed with the 4th Infantry Division. It was their story and his experiences with the 4th ID that he wrote about. We apologize for any confusion or concern this error may have caused unit members, their families and friends.

Connecticut pilot logs more than 4,000 A-10 flight hours

MASTER SGT. DON PERRIEN
332ND AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tallil Air Base, Iraq - If you think being deployed for 120 days to Tallil Air Base is tough, try flying in an A-10 24-hours a day for more than 166 straight days, 7-days a week. That adds up to allot of flying hours in one aircraft even when actually spread over 24 years.

Only a handful of pilots in the world have logged more than 4,000 hours flying the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Connecticut's Col. Dan Peabody, commander, 103rd Operations Group, Bradley Air National Guard Base, currently deployed as the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander, joined that exclusive club November 1 while flying a combat mission over central Iraq.

"I never had a goal of flying for 4,000 hours, just to fly as much and for as long as I can. The 4,000 hours just happened," Peabody said. "This was not just another day up there for me. Other than that (breaking the 4,000 hour mark), it was a 'no-kidding, for real' mission supporting our Army troops on the ground in Iraq."

Peabody knew he wanted to fly even before he joined the military, earning his private pilot's license while still in college. His path to the A-10 cockpit led him to enlist in the Air National Guard, working as a F-100 crew chief at the 103rd Fighter Wing in Connecticut.

More than 25 years later, he still calls the 103rd his home unit.

"I never had a goal of flying for 4,000 hours, just to fly as much and for as long as I can. The 4,000 hours just happened."

Col. Dan Peabody

Peabody received his engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1977 and was commissioned in 1978. He was one step closer to becoming a pilot, but it was a very big step.

At the same time, the 103rd Fighter Wing transitioned over from the older F-100s to the new A-10. "Back then, there was a pilot's board only once every year or two," Peabody said. "The competition for the slots was tough, but I was selected for UPT (Undergraduate Pilot Training) at Vance AFB, Oklahoma."

Returning back to the 103rd after initial training, Peabody flew the first of his 4,000 hours in the A-10 in the fall of 1979. Since then, he has flown more than 20 combat missions including sorties in Iraq and in Bosnia, supporting Operation Deliberate Force, where one of the most memorable of Peabody's missions took place.

"We were flying in support of French forces who were meeting heavy resistance on the ground," he said. "As my flight lead turned in to engage the enemy, we were attacked by

about 10-12 MANPADS (Man Portable Air Defense Systems). When I rolled in to strafe the threat location with my 30MM gun, after about 80 rounds, my gun blew up.

"So I held high and directed my lead to the targets on the ground, while keeping an eye on the sky around us for additional threats," Peabody said. "It turned out well, but I didn't know how well until six months later when I met some of the Legionaries we helped that day.

"With the shape my plane was in, we didn't have time for a good BDA (Battle Damage Assessment) at the time," Peabody said. "But the Frenchmen did. They told us later that we took out the threats, the tank and the artillery pieces that were in their way, and they were very grateful."

The Air Force's newest member of the Warthog 4K club calls flying the plane a challenge, but an enjoyable one.

"The A-10's a pretty basic aircraft, and it requires the pilot to be very involved," Peabody said. "You spend a lot of the time in the air reading maps and plotting coordinates, there's not as much computer assistance as in some other aircraft. I like the fact that it's a simple plane. In that regard, it's a real pilot's plane."

Compared to some of the newer aircraft in the Air Force inventory, the A-10 doesn't look as fast or sleek as some other models. However, according to Peabody its looks are part of the plane's mystique.

"It's not a real glamorous aircraft, but you can tell by looking at it - it means business," he said. "The A-10 was never built to be pretty. It's built rugged to give a beating and take a beating and it has proven time and again that it does both exceedingly well."

Peabody says the A-10 mission is one of the most important in the military, and flying here is one of the most satisfying parts of his military career.

"Our mission is real-world, real-time, supporting the guys on the ground," he said. "These people in the field are in the most intimate need of help when they call, and with the A-10, we give them the help they need. I can't imagine feeling anything more gratifying than successfully completing a close air support mission."

Following his tour here in Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, Peabody plans to return home to the 103rd FW - just in time to help the unit prepare



Col. Dan Peabody, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander stands by his A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft following a mission here at Tallil. He recently logged his 4,000th hour in the airframe. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Barton)

for its Operational Readiness Inspection.

"I'm not sure if the inspectors are going to care if I've got 4,000 hours in the A-10," he

said. "But if experience means anything, I guess I'm more than ready for any challenges down the road."

Lt. Governor, military leaders kick-off Operation ELF for active duty troops and their families in time for holidays

Lt. Governor Rell and CT National Guard leaders have announced a special effort – **Operation ELF** – to help the 1,100 active duty Connecticut soldiers and their families during the holiday season.

"The holidays are usually a time for festive family get-togethers and celebrations. This year, however, many military families will spend the holidays worrying about and missing their loved ones who are on active duty," said Lt. Governor Rell. "Children will miss having their mom or dad home with them. Wives will miss husbands, and husbands will miss wives.

"The holidays will be a time 'to just get through'," said the Lt. Governor. "What we're trying to do, through Operation ELF, is to let these families know that they are not alone," she said.

"We're grateful for the courageous service of our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and here in the United States. One meaningful way we can say thank you is to make sure that the families they have left behind are given whatever help they need," she said.

Of the 1,100 soldiers currently deployed, 635 are in Southwest Asia (Iraq and Afghanistan) and the rest are spread throughout the northeastern United States on security details as part of Operation Noble Eagle. An additional 140 troops, the 118th Medical Battalion, will be deployed overseas in December.

The 1,100 deployed troops have left behind 2,671 dependent family members, including 557

young children. Many of these families have struggled emotionally – and financially – during the active duty assignments of their loved ones.

Operation ELF will primarily focus on providing assistance to family members, but will also seek donations for care packages for our deployed troops.

For the families, donations of new, unwrapped toys for all age groups, both sexes, are being sought. Also being sought are grocery gift cards that may be used to buy holiday dinners and phone cards which may be used to call their deployed loved ones. Donations of fuel oil, Christmas trees,

snow removal services and gift cards for discount or department stores would be welcome. Financial contributions may also be made.

Many of the toys that are collected will be distributed to the children of deployed troops during a special holiday dinner that is scheduled for mid-December. Other toys will be held by families to be placed under trees on Christmas morning. Grocery gift cards and pre-paid phone cards will be used throughout the holidays and beyond for families in need. Many military families face financial pressures because soldiers have seen the elimination or reduction of their civilian job paychecks.

For our troops, care package items could include holiday cards, local newspapers, letters recorded on audio tape, movie or television program DVDs, magazines, puzzle books (crossword, word search, etc.), prepaid calling cards, lip balm, and disposable cameras.

"It will be a difficult holiday season for many Connecticut families. But we can make a heartfelt difference and we can

bring the warmth of the holiday season to our military families by participating in Operation ELF," said Lt. Governor Rell. "Please, help us remember our soldiers and their families. Help us lift spirits and send a message of love, hope and peace for 2004," she said.

"During this holiday season, the Connecticut National Guard remains focused on taking care of our deployed soldiers, airmen and their families," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard.

Those wishing to donate items for soldier care packages or family care packages may bring them to Lt. Governor Rell's Office, Room 304 of the State Capitol in Hartford, or to the Hartford State Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford. Donations may also be brought to the state armories listed below. Financial contributions may be sent to: CT National Guard Foundation, Inc., 360 Broad Street, Box 53, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 [a 501(c)(3) organization]. For questions and other drop-off locations, please call (860) 878-6723.

Bush extols importance of ESGR

JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14, 2003 - President Bush recognized the importance of employers in making their employees' military service possible as he signed a proclamation marking National Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Week.

"In times of need, our nation counts on the Guard and Reserve members to fulfill their commitments of service," Bush said during a White House ceremony. "We value their courage and we honor their sacrifices. They're defending their nation in the war on terror and they are serving in a just cause."

The president said reserve component service members depend on the understanding of their employers for their service. "Across America where units have been activated, employers at offices, factories, schools, hospitals and other workplaces have been understanding and really supportive," he said. "They have priority to the needs of our nation."

Bush said most employers have shown great consideration for their workers. "These companies have the gratitude of our nation, they have the gratitude of the commander in chief," he said.

The tradition of the citizen-soldier began with the Minutemen at Concord, Mass., in 1775. Some of the most famous fighting divisions of World War II started as National Guard outfits.

Bush spoke of his service with the Texas Air National Guard. He said what has stuck with him was his impression of the "high caliber of the people with whom I served."

The reserve components have more than 1.2 million members. They make up almost half of the total military force of the United States. "These men and women face the difficult challenge of balancing military duty with civilian employment," the president said. "They know the call to active duty can come at any time, and they are always ready."

Bush said guardsmen and reservists in places like Afghanistan and Iraq are "meeting the terrorist enemy abroad so our fellow citizens do not have to face the enemy at home."

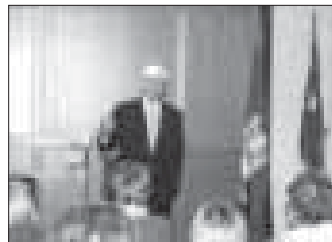
"They are part of our efforts to employ targeted and decisive force against cold-blooded terrorist killers," the commander in chief noted. "They are helping to train Iraqis and Afghans to defend their own countries. They are helping the Iraqi and Afghan people to build just and free and democratic governments. They are helping to defend the American homeland."

The president said reserve component service members rely on the support and patience of their families. "They also rely on their civilian employers to put the national interest above the corporate or self interests," he said.

"Employers of Guard and reserve members make possible the contributions of our citizens soldiers. By supporting the mobilization of patriots, employers are demonstrating their own patriotism."

The president said America needs the Guard and Reserve more today than it has in decades. "We're at war," he said. "And we're fortunate that so many of our citizens have heeded the call to serve a cause greater than themselves."

Showing support, concern



U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), answers questions at a family meeting held recently at the Hartford Armory. Dodd held a meeting with family members of deployed Connecticut Army National Guard Soldiers. He addressed their concerns and answered questions prior to his visit to Southwest Asia to visit Connecticut troops over the holidays. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)



Gov. John G. Rowland signs his Official Statement on the National Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, which was the week of November 17-23 2003. Brig. Gen. I.J. Zembroski, (r) assistant adjutant general of the Connecticut Army National Guard, Mr. Lewis Vasquez, chairman of the CT Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (I) look on. Members from Connecticut's Guard and Reserve also attended the signing. (Photo by Maj. John Whitford, State PAO)

10th Mountain shows its mettle in Operation Mountain Resolve: Connecticut's G 104th assists with aviation assets

Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Four days had passed since the beginning of Operation Mountain Resolve when Company B, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, which led the operation's main ground effort, had reached a small village just a few kilometers from their main objective.

Coalition forces had received information about anti-coalition militia activity throughout the Darrahe Waygal valley. During the first three nights of the operation, elements of the 10th Mountain Division Warrior Brigade had traveled along the mountainsides of the valley along the Fawerikwar River with the main purpose of disrupting any ACM operations and denying them sanctuary in a province coalition forces hadn't entered since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Co. B Commander Capt. Toby Moore.

They had traveled more than 20 kilometers by foot from the village of Namgalam where they had air assaulted into under the cover of night Nov. 6, and now they were to begin the uphill climb to their final objective, a suspected ACM stronghold located 6,000 feet up a nearby mountain.

According to Co. B 1st Sgt. Carl Ashmead, the days of marching and the ensuing climb to the objective were some of the most physically demanding tasks they'd done since arriving in Afghanistan.

"Nothing that you hold true conventionally holds true in the mountains," Ashmead said. "Travel time from point A to point B is longer, resupply is more difficult ... and the simple fact of moving through the terrain is difficult."

To help lessen the load of soldiers carrying heavy radios and other essential supplies while climbing the mountain, the 10th Mountain Division soldiers borrowed a page from World War II history, according to Ashmead, when they contracted locals and rented four donkeys to aid them on their mission.

The soldiers climbed the steep snaking mountain trail and arrived at the objective as the sun was setting behind ridgelines that dominated the area's landscape.

"Every one of the soldiers has definitely earned his mountain tab this mission," said Moore, about his soldiers' efforts.

When they arrived at the objective and cleared the buildings in the area, the soldiers discovered that the enemy had clearly abandoned the site.

According to Ashmead, showing up to an empty objective was a bit anticlimactic.

"Every infantryman trains to close with and destroy the enemy," he said.

"This was an indicator of how positive the War on Terrorism is going in

Afghanistan that there isn't any enemy to close with when we get here."

Over the next two days, the infantrymen searched the objective and surrounding areas for clues of ACM forces.

Even though there were no enemies to be found, many of the soldiers were still content with their accomplishments.

"There were a few times when I wanted to quit, but I just kept going," said Pvt. Jason Dominguez, Co. A, 2-22 Inf. "The mountains were a little rough, but we overcame them."

Sgt. Benjamin Ireland, Co. A, 41st Engineer Co., 10th Mtn. Div., agreed, "This mission, I felt like we actually got something accomplished; we went up there and made sure there wasn't any enemy left in the area."

And perhaps most importantly, the soldiers were able to draw some important lessons from the harsh experience, according to Ashmead.

"What it shows me about my soldiers is that they are very hard physically and mentally because they're able to come into unfamiliar terrain and they're able to adapt to it," he said. "We learned some painful lessons. We had a couple sprained ankles and other small injuries, but we also learned these hills aren't anything to be scared of; we can go up them and we can move on our own terms in these hills."

After two long, bitter-cold nights at the objective, the soldiers made the vastly easier trek down the mountain and back to

the village where they started to prepare for extraction from the province.

"It was a stressful experience but rewarding," said 1st Lt. Matthew Crowe, fire support officer out of 3rd Bn., 6th Field Artillery Regiment, about the whole experience. "It seems we've severely hindered the enemy's operations in this area."

And in climbing the mountains of

Afghanistan to fight the War on Terrorism, the soldiers of 10th Mtn. Div added pages to the proud history of the 10th Mountain Division, according to Ashmead.

"We've added to the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division. Maybe not with the same skill or dash that our forbearers from WWII did it, but we did it," he said. "And we came back with all the soldiers we left with, so overall, it's the end of a pretty good day."



10th Mountain Division mortarmen fire mortar rounds at Anti Coalition Forces' positions during Operation Mountain Resolve. The operation, which began on Nov. 7, is currently taking place in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan Provinces (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Greg Heath, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



A CH-47 Chinook, belonging to the G104th, lowers onto a roof to receive Afghan Persons Under Control taken by 10th Mountain Division soldiers during Operation Mountain Resolve. The operation, which began on Nov. 7, is currently taking place in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan Provinces. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Greg Heath, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)

Remembering a great generation through nostalgia

SPEC. JESSE J. STANLEY
65th PCH

History lives on within the hearts and minds of those who take the time to remember.

Air National Guard Col. Thomas G. Heath has taken the time to remember the past and collect nostalgia in order to save each piece of history from a time that is growing more distant from us each day.

In particular Heath has gathered a large collection of what are known as Sweetheart Pillow Covers.

The pillow covers sold for 50 cents at the PX or BX on each base throughout the country and the world. Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors could purchase them to send back to their loved ones, oftentimes the covers had a picture of the base or a poem to a loved one sewn onto them. They were usually very colorful and made out of a silk or cotton material.

"They were textile items that were very common during the first and second world wars," said Heath.

He began his collection five years ago after he saw a pillow cover at the New England Air Museum; today he has more than 500.

"When I saw it, it brought back a lot of memories," said Heath.

"When I was growing up a lot of the folks used to have tag sales and I would see them, they are very colorful. They were a lot more



Col. Thomas Heath displays some of his many Sweetheart Pillowcases, a collection he began only five years ago. (Photo by Spec. Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)

common then. When I saw it at the museum I said it was kind of neat. I still have that one; it said Miami Air Force Base and had a poem on it. It brought back a lot of memories for me. I started picking them up here and there."

Sometimes the covers were stamped with a soldier's name or unit, such as one that

hangs on the wall in Heath's office stamped with 328th Infantry Division. This was the division of Sgt. Alvin York, the most highly decorated soldier in WWI.

"Behind every one of these pillow covers is a story," said Heath. "Many, many of these individuals never returned home." Sometimes in acquiring a pillow cover

Heath has also learned the story behind them.

"One came with a note that said it was delivered to the person's grandmother in 1943 by her fiancé's best friend," said Heath. "The fiancé did not make it through the war and the grandmother ended up marrying the man who delivered the pillow cover and they stayed together for 50 years.

"They are great nostalgia items with a lot of history," said Heath. "If they could talk they would all have stories to tell. I have a fond appreciation for that. I think there is something to be said about the greatest generation of people who served. I think that was a highpoint in mankind, the people who served in WWI and WWII.

"They (the pillow covers) meant something to somebody, people I never knew or never met, but they still should be treated with great reverence," Heath continued. "There are stories behind them. People often paid with blood or with their lives."

As there are fewer and fewer people alive to tell their stories of the great World Wars and as our connection to these times in our history grows more distant we will rely on people like Col. Heath to tell their stories for them. It is only through remembrance and reverence that we will hold onto the past and not forget such a powerful generation of mankind.

Already their hero...be their teacher

1st LT. CELINE T. MARINI
ASSISTANT PIO

As military National Guard Soldiers, you answered the call to serve your country. Now, many former National Guard Soldiers are serving their country by answering a different call – the call to teach.

Troops to Teachers is an innovative program which helps former National Guard Soldiers find rewarding careers in the classroom.

Experts estimate that more than 2 million teachers will be needed nationwide during the next 10 years because of increased student enrollment and teachers retiring or leaving the classroom. Hardest hit will be low-income urban and rural school districts, which will need more than 700,000 new teachers during the next decade. However, some districts already are experiencing teacher shortages in math, science, computer science, special education and English as a second language (ESL).

Many former and retired National Guard Soldiers possess the skills and character traits needed to become good teachers. Recognizing this, the Department of Defense in 1994 established the Troops to Teachers program to help eligible military personnel transition into careers as public school teachers in high-need schools that serve low-income families. The program, which is overseen and funded by the U.S. Department

of Education managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, helps applicants find teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification and employment opportunities, as well as volunteer opportunities as mentors.

Yes, Guard members with the proper qualifications can become part of the Troops to Teachers program. More than 4,000 former National Guard Soldiers and reservists have received assistance from the program since its inception.

Guard members who are interested in a second career in education, can apply to the Troops to Teachers program by visiting its Web site, www.proudtoserveagain.com. To qualify, military personnel must have received an honorable discharge and either earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or have at least one year of college with six years experience in a vocational or technical field.

National Guard Soldiers can receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 to offset the costs incurred while they are earning their teaching credentials. Individuals who accept the stipend are obligated to teach in a school district or local education agency where at least 20 percent of the children come from families that are living below the poverty level.

Transitioning military members who

choose to teach in a school where at least 50 percent of the children are from low-income families also might be eligible to receive a \$10,000 bonus. However, the maximum amount an individual can receive through the Troops to Teachers program is \$10,000.

Troops to Teachers will help streamline the process, but it doesn't circumvent it. Military members who go through the program must meet the same stringent criteria as other prospective teachers.

The Reserve Component requirements call for you to be retired from the drilling reserves with 20 or more years of service. You must apply within four years of separation. For those who are currently serving in a drilling status you must have 10 or more years of creditable service towards retirement and commit to serving an additional three years or until eligible for retirement. For retired or separated personnel who were separated from a drilling status due to a physical disability, you must apply within four years of separation. Soldiers transitioning from active duty who have served six years immediately before separation, who commit to three years with a drilling unit are also eligible. Again, you must apply within four years of separation.

If you are interested in this program feel free to contact the Connecticut National Guard State Education Officer at paul.draper@ct.ngb.army.mil.



Preparing for war by preparing for war

MAJ. GEORGE WORRALL
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 103rd Fighter Wing spent Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 exercising going to war in preparation for an Operational Readiness Inspection scheduled for May 2004.

The Wing practiced processing cargo and personnel for the first two days, then simulated a deployed war zone on base to practice the ability to survive and operate, which is referred to as ATSO training.

"We demonstrate our readiness to deploy the forces necessary to employ combat forces," said Capt. Wayne B. Ferris, wing logistics plans officer, 103rd Fighter Wing, whose deployment control center orchestrates the deployment phase.

"Overall it went ok. We could have had more participation... the next ORE will be on a drill so we will have full participation."

January drill brings a deployment-only exercise followed by another weeklong exercise with employment and deployment in March. All are part of the process to prepare

the unit for the actual inspection in May.

"The message is it was a small scale inspection to get us started," said Col. John P. Swift, vice commander, 103rd Fighter Wing, and the Exercise Evaluation Team chief.

"I think we were supposed to walk before we run and we came out trotting. It is important the whole Wing understand that what we do in the next ORE and the ORI will be much more intense and encompass more inspection areas."

So how does the exercise team chief feel the Wing did overall in the exercise?

"I say it was a successful exercise to better define areas we need to concentrate on and improve upon," said Swift.

"The positive things are the Wing reacted well to the new chemical CONOPS (concept of operations), showed a good initial learning curve, and the attitudes to work hard to do this well. There is a lot more to do to get to that high level of preparedness."



103rd Services Flight troops set up the Mobile Kitchen Unit, or MKT, in preparation for the Operational Readiness Exercise at the Bradley Air National Guard Base 1 and 2 November. Approximately 100 exercise participants would eat a hot lunch at the MKT. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



Tech. Sgt. Todd H. Hanson, base historian, 103rd Fighter Wing and Senior Airman Michael D. Johnson, personnel journeyman, 103rd Military Personnel Flight, confer during the Operational Readiness Exercise at Bradley Air National Guard Base 1 November. Johnson was manning an entry control point and Hanson was a unit control center manager. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton, 103rd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)

Happy Birthday Army National Guard, December 13

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a two-part series celebrating the history of the Army National Guard. Information for this article provided by the Army National Guard)

The Army National Guard predates the founding of the nation and a standing military by almost a century and a half - and is therefore the oldest component of the United States armed forces. America's first permanent militia regiments, among the oldest continuing units in history, were organized by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. Since that time, the Guard has participated in every U.S. conflict from the Pequot War of 1637 to our current deployments in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Today's National Guard is the direct descendent of the militias of the thirteen original English colonies. The first English settlers brought many cultural influences and English military ideas with them. For most of its history, England had no full-time, professional Army. The English had relied on a militia of citizen-soldiers who had the obligation to assist in national defense.

The first colonists in Virginia and Massachusetts knew that they had to rely on themselves for their own defense. Although the colonists feared the traditional enemies of England, the Spanish and Dutch, their main threat came from the thousands of native Americans who surrounded them.

Initially, relations with the Indians were relatively peaceful, but as the colonists took more and more of the Indians land, war became inevitable. In 1622, Indians massacred nearly one quarter of the English settlers in Virginia. In 1637, the English settlers in New England went to war against the Pequot Indians of Connecticut.

These first Indian wars began a pattern which was to continue on the American frontier for the next 250 years - a type of warfare that the colonists had not experienced in Europe.

By the time of the French and Indian War, which began in 1754, the colonists had been fighting Indians for generations. To augment their forces in North America, the British recruited regiments of "Provincials" from the militia. These colonial regiments brought to the British Army badly-needed skills in frontier warfare. Major Robert Rogers of New Hampshire formed a regiment of "rangers" who performed reconnaissance and conducted long-range raids against the French and their Indian allies.

The Making of a New Nation

Barely ten years after the end of the French and Indian War, the colonists were at war with the British and the militia was poised to play a crucial role in the revolution. Most of the regiments of the Continental Army, commanded by former militia colonel George Washington, were recruited from the militia. As the war progressed, American commanders learned how to make use of

citizen-soldiers to help defeat the British Army.

When the fighting moved to the southern states in 1780, successful American generals learned to call out the local militia for specific battles, to augment their full-time Continental troops. At the same time, these Southern militiamen were fighting a brutal civil war with their neighbors loyal to the King. Both the Patriots and Loyalists raised militias, and on both sides, joining the militia was the ultimate test of political loyalty.

Americans recognized the important role played by the militia in winning the Revolutionary War. When the nation's founders debated what form the government of the new nation would take, great attention was paid to the institution of the militia.

The framers of the Constitution reached a compromise between the opposing point of view of the federalist's and anti-federalists. The federalists believed in a strong central government and wanted a large standing Army with a militia firmly under control of the Federal government. The anti-federalists believed in the power of the states and small or non-existent regular Army with state controlled militias. The President was given control of all military forces as Commander-in-Chief, but Congress was provided the sole power to raise the taxes to pay for military forces and the right to declare war. In the militia, power was divided between the individual states and the Federal government. The Constitution gave the states the right to appoint officers and supervise training, and the Federal government was granted the authority to impose standards.

In 1792, Congress passed a law which remained in effect for 111 years. With a few exceptions, the 1792 law required all males between the ages of 18 to 45 to enroll in the militia. Volunteer companies of men who would buy their own uniforms and equipment were also authorized. The Federal government would set standards of organization and provide limited money for weapons and ammunition.

Unfortunately, the 1792 law did not require inspections by the Federal government, or penalties for non-compliance with the law. As a result, in many states the "enrolled" militia went into a long decline; once-a-year musters were often poorly organized and ineffective. Nevertheless, during the War of 1812, the militia provided the infant republic's main defense against the British invaders.

War with Mexico

The War of 1812 demonstrated that despite its geographic and political isolation from Europe, the United States still needed to maintain military forces. The militia component of that military force was increasingly filled by the growing number of volunteers (as opposed to mandatory enrollment) militia. Many states began to rely completely on their volunteer units, and to spend their limited Federal funds entirely on them.

Even in the mostly rural South, these units tended to be an urban phenomenon. Clerks and craftsmen made up most of the force; the officers, usually elected by the members of the unit, were often wealthier men such as lawyers or bankers. As increasing numbers of immigrants began to arrive in the 1840s and 1850s, ethnic units such as the "Irish Jasper Greens" and the German "Steuben Guards" began to spring up.

Militia units made up 70 percent of the U.S. Army that fought the Mexican War in 1846 and 1847. During this first American war fought entirely on foreign soil, there was considerable friction between regular Army officers and militia volunteers, a friction that would reappear during subsequent wars. "Regulars" were upset when militia officers outranked them and at times complained that the volunteer troops were sloppy and poorly disciplined.

But complaints about the militia's fighting abilities declined as they helped win critical battles. The Mexican War set a military pattern which the nation would follow for the next 100 years: the regular officers provided military know-how and leadership; citizen-soldiers provided the bulk of the fighting troops.

The Civil War

In terms of the percentage of the male population involved, the Civil War was by far the biggest war in U.S. history. It was also the bloodiest: more Americans died than in both World Wars combined.

When the war began in April, 1861 at Fort Sumter, both Northern and Southern militia units rushed to join the Army. Both sides thought the war would be short: in the North, the first volunteers were only enlisted for 90 days. After the war's first battle, at Bull Run, it became obvious that the war would be a long one. President Lincoln called for 400,000 volunteers to serve for three years. Many militia regiments returned home, recruited and reorganized, and returned as three-year volunteer regiments.

After most of the militia, both North and South, were on active duty, each side turned to conscription. The Civil War draft law was based on the legal obligation to serve in the militia, with quotas for each state.

Many of the most famous Civil War units, from the 20th Maine which saved the Union line at Gettysburg to Stonewall Jackson's famous brigade of "foot cavalry" were militia units. The largest percentage of Civil War battle streamers are carried by units of the Army National Guard.

Reconstruction and Industrialization

After the end of the Civil War, the South was under military occupation. Under Reconstruction, a state's right to organize its militia was suspended, to be returned only when that state had an acceptable Republican government. Many African-Americans joined the militia units formed by these governments. The end of

Reconstruction in 1877 brought the militia back to white control, but black militia units survived in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and five Northern states.

In all sections of the country, the late 19th century was a period of growth for the militia. Labor unrest in the industrializing Northeast and Midwest caused those states to examine their need for a military force. In many states large and elaborate armories, often built to resemble medieval castles, were constructed to house militia units.

It was also during this period that many states began to rename their militia "National Guard". The name was first adopted before the Civil War by New York State's militia in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, who commanded the "Garde Nationale" in the early days of the French Revolution.

In 1889, after the U.S. battleship Maine blew up in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, the U.S. declared war on Spain (Cuba was a Spanish colony). Because it was decided that the President did not have the right to send the National Guard outside the United States, Guard units volunteered as individuals - but then reelected their officers and remained together.

National Guard units distinguished themselves in the Spanish-American War. The most famous unit of the war was a cavalry unit partly recruited from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona National Guardsmen, Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders".

The real importance of the Spanish-American War was not, however, in Cuba: it was in making the United States a power in the Far East. The U.S. Navy took the Philippines from Spain with little trouble, but the Filipinos wanted independence, and the U.S. had to send troops to hold the islands.

Because most of the regular Army was in the Caribbean, three quarters of the first U.S. troops to fight in the Philippines were from the National Guard. They were the first American troops to fight in Asia, and the first to fight a foreign enemy who used classic guerrilla tactics - tactics which would again be employed against U.S. troops in Vietnam more than 60 years later.

Military Reform

Problems during the Spanish-American War demonstrated that if the U.S. was to be an international power, its military was in need of reform. Many politicians and Army officers wanted a much larger full-time Army, but the country had never had a large regular Army in peacetime and was unwilling to pay for it. Further, states-rights advocates in Congress defeated plans for a totally Federal reserve force in favor of reforming the militia, or National Guard.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Pearl Harbor Speech



President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the declaration of war against Japan after the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. (Photo from the Library of Congress, prints and Photographs Division [LC-USZ62-15185 DLC])

To the Congress of the United States:

Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with the government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleagues delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As commander in chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, Dec. 7, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

National Guard celebrates birthday

From Page 22

In 1903, a piece of landmark legislation opened the way for increased modernization of, and Federal control over the National Guard. The law provided increased Federal funding, but in order to obtain it, National Guard units had to reach minimum strengths and be inspected by Regular Army officers. Guardsmen were required to attend 24 drills per year, and five days of annual training, for which they received pay for the first time.

In 1916, another act was passed, guaranteeing the state militias' status as the Army's primary reserve force, and requiring that all states rename their militia "National Guard". The National Defense Act of 1916 prescribed qualifications for National Guard officers and allowed them to attend U.S. Army schools; required that each National Guard unit would be inspected and recognized by the War Department; and ordered that National Guard units would be organized like

regular Army units. The act also specified that Guardsmen would be paid not just for annual training, but also for their drills.

The First World War

The National Defense Act of 1916 was passed while the Mexican bandit and revolutionary Pancho Villa was raiding the border towns of the Southwest. The entire National Guard was called to active duty by President Woodrow Wilson, and within four months, 158,000 Guardsmen were in place along the Mexican border.

Guardsmen stationed on the border in 1916 saw no action. But in the spring of 1917, the U.S. declared war on Germany and entered World War I, and the Guardsmen had a chance to put their training to good use.

The National Guard played a major role in World War I. Its units were organized into divisions by state, and those divisions made up 40% of the combat strength of the

American Expeditionary Force. Three of the first five U.S. Army divisions to enter combat in World War I were from the National Guard. Further, the highest number of World War I Medals of Honor recipients were from the 30th Division, made up of National Guardsmen from the Carolinas and Tennessee.

Between the Wars

The years between World Wars I and II were quiet ones for the Army and for the National Guard. The most significant developments occurred in what would become known as the Air National Guard.

The National Guard had a few "aeroplanes" before World War I, but only two New York aviation units were formally organized. After the war, Army organization charts called for each division to have an observation squadron (the primary mission of aircraft in those days was reconnaissance), and the National Guard

was eager to form their own squadrons. By 1930, the National Guard had 19 observation squadrons. The Depression put an end to the activation of new flying units, but several more would be organized just before the U.S. entered World War II.

Preparing to Fight

By the summer of 1940, World War II was raging. Much of Europe was in the hands of Nazi Germany. In the fall of 1940, the nation's first peacetime draft was enacted and the National Guard was called to active duty.

The draft and mobilization were to last for only one year, but in September 1941, the term of service for draftees and mobilized Guardsmen was extended. Three months later the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered World War II.

Record of Connecticut Men in the War of Rebellion

Editor's Note: This is the second monthly installment of the history of Connecticut's service in the Civil war, as published in the RECORD OF SERVICE OF CONNECTICUT MEN IN THE WAR OF REBELLION, 1861 TO 1865, from the History of the Second Connecticut Volunteers written by Gen. James B. Coit, Private IN Co. B. (Transcribed by Staff Sergeant Brett W. Wilson, Administrative Assistant to the USPFO for Connecticut)

The Second Regiment of Connecticut three months Infantry Volunteers, Col. Alfred H. Terry, was raised under President Lincoln's first call for troops, and its numerical strength was 798 men.

Company A, "Buckingham Rifles," Captain Chester, was intended for assignment to the First Regiment, having been recruited at the Governor's home by Private James B. Coit, the first volunteer in Norwich, on the receipt of the telegram announcing the assault on Fort Sumter.

The "Mansfield Guards" of Middletown, Captain Dickinson, the New Haven "Grays," Captain Osborn, and the National Guard of Birmingham, Captain Russell, were old, well drilled, and popular militia organizations; the other companies were wholly enlisted under the President's call. The Second Regiment was fortunate in its officers, most of them being trained soldiers of the State Militia, Colonel Terry having served as colonel, Lieut.-Colonel Young as brigadier-general, Major Colburn as major, Adjutant Russell as adjutant, and many of its captains and lieutenants as line officers.

Eight companies were armed with Sharp's rifles and two with Springfield muskets. The regiment was mustered into the United States service at Brewster's Park, New Haven, May 7, 1861.

It embarked May 10th on the steamer Cahawba for Washington, D.C., reaching its destination May 14th, and camping at Meridian Hill, where it remained and made the most of its school for war until ordered into Virginia.

On the night of the 16th of June it crossed "Long Bridge," aiming to camp at Roach's Mills, about nine miles from Washington, but

where, adding picket and other outpost duty to its former routine work, it remained till the advance on Bull Run. At this camp it was brigaded with the First and Third Connecticut, the Eighth New York, the Second Maine, all infantry; and with Tompkin's New York Cavalry, and Berrian's New York Battery, Brig.-Gen. Daniel Tyler

were one killed and fifteen taken prisoners and missing.

In the latter part of the afternoon, under instructions, it fell back in good order on Centreville Heights, and later continued its march to the camp at Oak Hill, where it arrived on the following morning. For parts of two days the regiment was here employed in striking its tents and the tents of several brigades of troops left standing and deserted by former occupants.

Large quantities of arms, ammunition, camp equipage, and a miscellaneous variety of stores and other property, to the value of many thousands of dollars, here awaited the favorable response of the Quartermaster-General's Department for transportation and the action of the Connecticut troops for safety. Telegrams to headquarters brought the necessary trains, and the men of the Connecticut regiments loaded, guarded, and escorted them over the Potomac.

At the expiration of its term of service the Second regiment returned to New Haven, where, on the 7th day of August, 1861, its men were mustered out, some to close their military career, but most of them to make use of their experience, training, and discipline in the three years' regiments of the State, wherein a large number became valuable officers, not a few won spurs, and others stars for gallant and meritorious service.

Casualties Second Connecticut Volunteers

	Field and Staff	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Total
Killed										1		1
Wounded			1									1
Died			1	1			1					3
Captured	1	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	2	3		14
Discharged/Disability		3	4	3	4	3	2	1	3	4	3	31
Total	1	3	10	5	7	3	4	3	5	7	3	52

after reaching its destination, on the 17th, it was ordered to the support of Colonel McCook's Ohio regiment (Schenck's Brigade), which had that day been attacked at Vienna Station.

The enemy having retreated before its arrival, the Second regiment continued its march to Taylor's Tavern on Oak Hill, near Falls Church, some five miles from Roach's Mills, forming here, with the other Connecticut three months' men, a camp of instruction,

commanding.

Subsequently, General Tyler was assigned to a division of troops, and with Gen. E. D. Keyes in command of the brigade the Second Connecticut took part in the battle of Bull Run, July 21st, acquitting itself with great credit, maintaining its regimental formations throughout the action, and demonstrating by its coolness under fire the excellence of its material and the thoroughness of its discipline. Its losses

COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

AIR NATIONAL GUARD East Granby TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed UTAs: Open Saturday & Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00 Phone: (860) 653-6994	CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 739-9672	WEST POINT, NEW YORK Exchange Hours: SATURDAY – WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 Phone: (914) 446-5406 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 10:00 – 7:00 FRIDAY: 10:00 – 6:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00 Phone: (914) 446-5406	SUB BASE, NEW LONDON Exchange Hours: MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00 Phone: (860) 694-3811 Commissary Hours: MONDAY: Closed TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00 THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00 SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 Phone: (860) 694-2244	WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE Chicopee, Mass. MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 10:00- 5:00 SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00 Phone: (413) 593-5583
COAST GUARD ACADEMY New London MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 5:00 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (860) 444-8488	COAST GUARD STATION 120 Woodward Avenue New Haven, CT MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 4:30 SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00 SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (203) 468-2712			ARMY RESERVE CENTER 700 South Quaker Lane West Hartford, CT MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 1:00 MONDAY – FRIDAY: 1:45 – 5:00 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Closed Phone: (860) 236-3393

Connecticut Military Department News

Father daughter team join Second Company Governor's Horse Guard

2nd LT. ROBERT DAHM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

For the first time since anyone in the Troop can remember a father and his daughter have joined the Troop as new members. Privates Gordon and Kindra Johnson of Newtown, Conn. joined the Troop this past winter having gone through the required recruit training and graduating to "Privates." They have now been with the Troop for about a year.

Gordon, an engineer, and his daughter, Kindra, who works at the Mt. Pleasant Animal Hospital in Newtown, also have horses of their own on their farm in Newtown, but it was the lore of the "Cavalry" that called to the both of them.

Interested in preserving the Cavalry in Connecticut and being part of a state militia unit were things that were attractive to Gordon and Kindra.

Seems that volunteering is a word Gordon is very familiar with. Gordon is also a member of the Hawleyville Volunteer Fire Department as well as an Emergency Medical Technician for the Newtown Volunteer Ambulance.

Kindra appears to be following in her father's footsteps.

The Troopers in the Governor's Horse



Gordon and Kindra Johnson with their mounts "Dallas" and "Suede" at the recent fund raising event for St. Jude's Cancer Research Hospital for children. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Robert Dahm, 2nd Co. Governor's Horse Guard)

Guard help care for the herd of 34 horses and perform in more than 30 parades and functions per year. The Troop also has begun regularly scheduled mounted patrols in State forests for the state DEP in conjunction with the Connecticut Horse Council.

It seems that the Johnson's will be keeping a very busy schedule. The Troop will also be expanding its Therapeutic Riding program

for "special needs" adults as well as a new program being formed for veterans from the West Haven Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Both Gordon and Kindra stated that joining seemed like a "good thing to do" as a father/daughter worthwhile activity. Kindra convinced Gordon to join and both have become valued members of the Troop.

2nd Co., GHG starts Therapeutic Riding Program for West Haven Veteran's Administration Medical Center veterans

2nd LT. ROBERT DAHM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The Second Horse will begin a new program of therapeutic riding for veterans.

Lt. Al Comeau has been working with Sgt. Cindy Joyce in setting up the program, which will formally debut next spring.

Joyce was recently certified as the Troop's own professionally trained therapeutic riding instructor. Joyce is currently in charge of the Troop's ongoing "Saddle Up for Life" (SUFL) riding program, which has been ongoing for the last six years and has been a resounding success. SUFL currently provides riding for many "Special Needs" programs such as the adults from Southbury Training School. "Second Horse" Troopers volunteer numerous extra hours in addition to their regular volunteer hours in order to make the program a success.

Recently some of the veterans of the West Haven Veteran's Administration Medical Center arrived at the "Second Horse" to take a tour, speak with staff officers and "meet and greet" some of the Troop's herd of thirty-four horses. The veterans were primarily there to see the facility and to be acquainted with the horses in anticipation for the official start of the new program.

The main purpose of the visit was to study the feasibility of utilizing members of the West Haven Rehab program, but to also look at whether other veterans, both hospitalized and non-hospitalized may be willing to devote time and effort to assist the Troop to carry on its mission as a true Horse Cavalry Unit since 1808.

Many of the regular members of the Troop will attest to the fact that time spent volunteering at the "Second Horse" is therapeutic in itself. There's nothing like performing hours of manual labor in the care and feeding of the 34-member herd to help forget your troubles!

Busy year for 2nd Co., Governor's Foot Guard

CAPT. ROBERT J. DEVANEY
2nd Co., GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD

This has been a very busy season for the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard.

The Company has hosted the Second Horse and the SAR coupled with our annual visit by the First Company of the Governor's Foot Guard.

Congratulations go to William Stronk as the new sergeant major of the Second Company, special awards

of the Soldier of the Year to Sgt. 1st Class David Scott, and the Charles Dineen award to Sgt. Alice Cronin.

Our command attended many functions on Veterans' Day weekend, starting with the Officers' Dining In.

Members of the command also attended the annual Centennial Legion meeting at West Point, while others went to the Veterans' Day Parades in Hartford and Branford. The weekend ended with a battalion review and dinner at the Goffe Street Armory hosting 75 veterans.



Maj. Peter Jenkin leading the Second Company in the Veterans' Day Parade in Branford, Conn. (Photo courtesy of Capt. Robert Devaney, 2nd Co. GFG)

Wine tasting and chili cook-off

The Second Company Governors' Foot Guard will host a wine tasting at 1 p.m. and a Chili cook-off at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 25, 2004 at the New Haven Armory, Goffe Street. Everyone is invited to enter their best chili into the cook-off by calling the Goffe Street Armory on Monday evenings at (203) 562-6593. Awards for the best chili will be given.

MEDEVAC!

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

On a cold, windy October day, with the American flag flying proudly over their mission and the smell of smoke from a nearby controlled house burning, Soldiers from the 141st Medical Company were busy carrying victims on their backs, strapping them in safely to their litters and carrying them to one of several vehicles waiting to evacuate the patients to medical facilities where they could get the treatment they needed.

With shouts of "Keep your head down!" and "Watch your step!" sounding through the tree lines, Soldiers at Stone's Ranch ran through the underbrush and over tree stumps to the waiting MEDEVAC helicopter, carrying the injured who relied on them for immediate treatment and evacuation.

Back at Camp Rowland, other members of the unit did the same, but they ran across an open field, fighting the strong winds of both Mother Nature and the helicopter rotors to get their patients into the waiting helicopter.

And they did this over and over and over, and then they did it again.

Fortunately for the medics and Soldiers of the 141st, this was not a mass casualty reality: their patients were training dummies, and their injuries simulated.

The medical helicopter and its crew were on loan from a sister unit in Vermont and had just returned from a rotation in Bosnia.

"We don't often get a chance like this to train with the helicopter," said Capt. Anne-Marie Garcia, commander of the 141st. "We're very fortunate to have this."

In addition to the helicopter training, the soldiers practiced loading and unloading victims into various types of ground vehicle for transport to other locations.



Soldiers of the 141st Medical Co. practice strapping victims to the litters during a MEDEVAC exercise held at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



One Soldier gets final instructions from the MEDEVAC chopper crew chief before his team carries a victim to the waiting helicopter. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



During the training exercise, Soldiers learned how to properly strap a victim/patient to the litters. With helicopter rotors spinning, it is vitally important that patients be properly strapped in. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)



...to properly strap a victim/patient to the litter for safe transport to the waiting air
itally important that patients be properly strapped in as the noise from the rotors and
screams if he or she starts to fall off the litter. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton,



Soldiers of the 141st Medical Company carefully run their patient to the waiting helicopter for transport to a medical treatment facility...



...and load the patient into the aircraft under the watchful eye of the crew chief...



...and the patient is successfully on his way for more advanced medical treatment than can be offered in the field. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Facilities upgrade, modernization continue



Members of the United States Navy's Seabees work on installing a roof on one of the latrine/shower buildings at Perry Park, Stone's Ranch. The Seabees have been working at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch throughout the year, improving roads and building parking lots and are now getting more actively involved in horizontal engineering projects such as this one at Perry Park. Soldiers who have been conducting training at Stone's Ranch have traditionally had to make the 20 minute drive back to Camp Rowland to use the shower facilities during an annual training period. With the construction of three new buildings, they can now shower while in the



field. The Seabees are also working on the construction of the 17-building MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) Site being built at Stone's Ranch. They have been at Camp Rowland and Stone's Ranch every drill weekend and spent their annual training period at the two National Guard training facilities as part of Task Force Husky, an engineering initiative to bring engineers from other states and branches of service into Connecticut for real-world training while at the same time providing upgraded training facilities for all military personnel who use them. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State Senior PA NCO)

Officers Club of Connecticut

December Events

Saturday, Dec. 6
Army Navy Football Game
Bar and Lounge Open 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 8
House Committee Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Board of Governor's Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 16
ladies O'Club Luncheon
Noon

Wednesday, Dec. 24
Club open for lunch, closes at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25 to Thursday, Jan. 1
Club closed for holiday week, reopens on Friday, Jan. 2

Bar and Lounge open daily at lunch and from 4 p.m. to....

Club open for lunch daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Welcome our new chef, Saul Brown.

To book a party or event, call (860) 249-3624

**OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
PRESENTS**

A NIGHT AT THE BUSHELL

NUNSENSE

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2004 AT 8:00 PM

Hallelujah! The little sinners of Hallowden are taking their act on the road in an all-star production of NunSense, the award winning musical comedy. NunSense 25th Anniversary All-Star Tour features five of America's best-loved comedienne: Legends are Ballard, George Engel, Mimi Hines, Darlene Love and Lou Morabito. "NunSense is habit forming!" proclaims The New York Times.

DONOR AT THE OFFICERS CLUB AT 6PM

MENU

TO BE ANNOUNCED

(See us Backstage at 7:00 PM on walk)

Price: \$80 pp includes Dinner, Bus & Theater. For Reservation call Virginia Schellie (860) 249-3624. Make checks payable to Virginia Schellie and mail to 81 Laurel Rd. South Windsor, Ct. 06074

NUNSENSE

Name _____ F Tix _____ Tel _____

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The War Eagle: a memory regarding an interesting variation of US military rank insignia

COL. (RET.) CHUCK SCHLUTER
CTARNG/USACE

We all had one – the mentor, the friend, that personable Officer who befriended us at the beginning of our careers.

One of my favorite mentors was Maj. Robert Devoe. He enjoyed a memorable career and ultimately was promoted to brigadier general.

Although he didn't live to enjoy retirement, his family and friends will never forget him – his passion for the military, the infantry, the units he supported, his family, his friends by the hundreds, and his series of Corvettes are easily remembered.

But those who knew him best were very familiar with his collection of Eagles. His huge office on the top floor of the National Guard Armory in Hartford, Connecticut was as decorated, almost filled, with Eagles.

Of course he had the family pictures, models of Corvettes and the typical piles of plaques and awards from various assignments too, but it was his Eagles that dominated the Office.

He had several hundred, cast in bronze, pewter, resin, in glass, under glass, pictures and paintings, wall paper and paper weights, posters, statues, decals, decantors and decorations – they were everywhere.

And at one time he told me that he had a set of **War Eagles** too. But I never did see them.

Recently I saw my first set of **War Eagles** which caused me to reminisce about a good friend and a little bit of military trivia that the reader may find interesting.

For more than a century and a half, Colonels uniform insignia has centered upon the Eagle. General Washington initially established the method of identifying

Colonels on July 23, 1775, but the use of Eagles wasn't mentioned for several decades more. I believe and mandated that all epaulettes, regardless of branch be gold, and hence, all Eagles became silver.

I believe the gold actually referred to the trim of the epaulettes, as I

embroidered eagle on the shoulder strap faced the arrows, while the eagle worn on the epaulettes faced the olive branch. The arrows came to imply the warrior's readiness, while the olive branch represented a warrior's peaceful goal.

Metal insignia were authorized in 1902. Although the Colonel's insignia was described as a silver spread eagle, there is no reference as to the direction of the eagle's head nor are there illustrations.

The 1917 uniform regulations, and the 1921 regulations specified the size of the insignia and again described them as a metal silver eagle with wings spread.

The uniform indicated that one was worn on the shoulder loop, beak to the front, and on the right collar of the shirt with the eagle's beak to the front.

In 1926, for the first time, the Colonel insignia were made in pairs with the head of the eagle facing the front when worn.

To do this, the eagle's head was reversed on one insignia – the insignia worn on the right shoulder had the eagle's head facing the laurel branch.

On the left shoulder, the eagle's head faced the arrows. The insignia with the eagle's head facing the arrow became known by the term "**war eagle**."

In 1951, the insignia was redesigned so that the eagle's head faced the laurel branch on both the left and right shoulder insignia with the arrows to the rear on both insignia.

Today, the "war eagle" is no longer authorized for wear on the uniform, and has been simply relegated to a distant corner of military history.

I believe that the evolution of all military insignia is steeped in history, and certainly as careers cross paths, we pick up bits and pieces of that history.

Recently I saw a set of war eagles, which caused me to reflect upon an old friend, a wonderful career, and then, I paused to look at where we are today.

The Eagle, our great national symbol is again peering over the points of the arrow while clutching tightly the olive branches of peace.

God Bless our warriors – may they do their duty well and return safely home.

All material mentioned above is either a personal recollection or was extracted from various web pages.

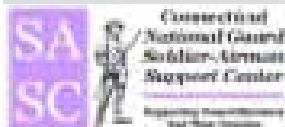
the first documented use of Eagles as Colonel insignia occurred in 1829.

Later, in 1851 a regulation change abolished silver epaulettes with gold Eagles for infantry,

bullion. The 1851 regulation included illustrations that show that the



Military Matters



Shopping safely online

Buying goods and services on the Internet can be an easy and convenient way to do your shopping. However, you have to be careful that you are making wise shopping decisions. These tips can help you shop with confidence and reap the benefits of buying online.

The Seller

When shopping online, you should make sure you are buying from a legitimate seller. You should treat shopping online as you would if someone called you with an offer over the phone. If there were a problem with your order, would you know how to reach the merchant?

Before buying anything online, make sure the company's Web site lists its:

- * Street address (not just a P.O. box address);
- * Domestic phone number (toll-free preferred);
- * Fax number; and
- * E-mail address.

You also might want to check to see whether any complaints have been filed against the company by contacting the Better Business Bureau or visiting a consumer watchdog Web site.

Security

Follow these steps to protect your personal information when you order and pay for something online:

- * Know what you are purchasing. The site should list in detail the goods or services you are going to buy. Print out these pages, as well as a copy of the purchase invoice or online receipt. The invoice also

should include a purchase-order number and/or confirmation number.

- * Look for written reassurances regarding your purchase. The site should include a return/exchange policy. In addition, there should be a satisfaction guarantee.

- * When placing your order, double-check all the information you enter on the order form.

- * Many sites require that shoppers create accounts. You may be asked to select a password. Remember to record any passwords in a place where others are not likely to find them.

- * Only buy from merchants who use Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) technology.

- * Most browsers use safety icons to let you know when you enter a secure site. Look for a lock icon in the lower left corner of your screen; if the icon appears unlocked, the page you are viewing is not secure.

- * Experts strongly recommend using a credit card as the safest way to buy online. If you have a dispute with a vendor, you have the right to notify your card issuer. While the dispute is being investigated, you are not required to pay.

Additional Services

If you have other EAP concerns, please call the toll free number, 1-888-290-4EAP or TDD access at 1-800-697-0353.

This employee/family benefit is provided by your employer.

For information related to your everyday concerns, go to www.GuidanceResources.com. "First Time Users" will be prompted for their company ID: FEDSOURCE, to register and create your own username and password.

Education Essentials:

The DANTES Distance Learning Program

The DANTES Distance Learning Program provides a wide range of nontraditional education programs critical for Service members who need alternatives to fulfill degree requirements when classroom courses are unavailable or when work schedules or duty locations do not permit class attendance. <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

DANTES provides undergraduate and graduate academic courses from nearly 150 institutions. Other courses are oriented toward a non-degree-seeking or technically oriented student. Courses are available to personnel in all Military Services.

Benefits

- * Earn credit wherever stationed.
- * Study when the schedule permits.
- * Choose from various levels: undergraduate through graduate school, including doctorate, vocational or technical.
- * Increase promotion and pay potential.
- * Receive tuition assistance.

What kind of programs are available? DANTES Independent Study Program discrete college courses DANTES External Degree Program Associates, Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral Programs Vocational & technical courses offered by nationally accredited

institutions Associates, Bachelors, Masters Programs

What is the purpose of each of these programs? The DANTES Independent Study Catalog lists more than 6,000 high school, undergraduate and graduate level, and examination preparation correspondence courses that are available from regionally accredited institutions. Subjects range from astronomy to zoology. Transfer credits where needed to complete degree requirements.

The DANTES External Degree Catalog lists programs available from about 80 accredited colleges and universities that have little or no residency requirement for degree completion, making them very useful to service members in achieving their educational goals. The guide lists approximately 100 associate, 225 baccalaureate, 100 graduate degree and about 45 credit-bearing certificate programs.

The DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs contains course listings from more than 20 schools accredited by the various national accrediting bodies. The nationally accredited program provides a means of independent study for service members who want to develop skills through technical and nontechnical training.

(Part II will appear next month)

Conditional promotions suspended across Army

SPEC. BILL PUTNAM

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Nov. 25, 2003) — All conditional promotions Armywide from sergeant to sergeant first class will be suspended until further notice after Jan. 1.

The new policy, dated Nov. 21, states that Soldiers must graduate from their respective noncommissioned officer education school before being considered for promotion. Sergeants must graduate from Primary Leadership Development Course to be considered for staff sergeant; staff sergeants must graduate from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for sergeant first class; and sergeants first class must graduate from the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course for consideration to master sergeant.

"We always figured it would stop," Sgt. Maj. Julian Edmondson, the personnel policy integrator at the Pentagon's G-1 staff, said of the policy. "It's hard enough to manage during peacetime. With a war it was a nightmare."

Currently there are 36,641 Soldiers waiting for seats in the Army's various Noncommissioned Officer Education System schools, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lionel Parker, of the institutional training shop at the Army G-3 (Operations).

Parker said the Army's operation staff is working out details of a plan to train those soldiers waiting for school seats. That plan was announced Oct. 10 by Parker and his staff at the Pentagon.

As it stands now, units tapped for deployment will send their Soldiers to school before going and units coming back will send them afterward, Parker said.

That plan was sent down to the command sergeants major of the Army's Major Commands and should be down to the battalion level, Parker said.

"This plan gives command sergeants major and commanders some authority to make decisions," Parker said.

Some of those Soldiers were actually pulled out of school before completing it so they could deploy with their units, Parker said.

Retiring Soldiers or those leaving the Army will depart the Army in their current rank regardless of their NCOES status, the policy also states.

The policy of conditionally promoting a Soldier to the next rank started en masse around 1992, said Edmondson. A scarcity of school seats because of congressional cutbacks on training funds penalized Soldiers, he said.

Because the Army didn't want to punish Soldiers for a lack of funds, the new policy was adopted, Edmondson explained.

The intent was to make it a temporary policy with plans for a review, he said.

Unfortunately operations in Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia and eventually Kosovo interrupted that. Sending Soldiers to a leadership course while deployed wasn't feasible, Edmondson said.

A backlog of Soldiers waiting to attend leadership courses after their deployments started to build. Deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan have added to the backlog.

Now the policy is "back to what it was" before 1992, Edmondson. The goal of the NCOES is to get a Soldier ready for the next rank, he said.

Edmondson said the suspension wasn't a threat to Soldiers. In fact, he said, it could bolster them.

Sending a Soldier to a school to validate his promotion may not have been the best plan, Edmondson said.

"Why send a student to school if they're already doing that job?" he asked. In the midst of war those leaders learned how to take care of their Soldiers.

According to the Connecticut Army National Guard Personnel Office, there are about 100 Soldiers who had been conditionally promoted before the new policy went into effect.



COMMAND SGT. MAJ.
RAYMOND P. ZASTAURY

Enlisted Update *Quite a year!*

It has been quite a year! In my 34 years of service in the Connecticut Army National Guard I have never experienced the non-stop activity our soldiers and airmen faced during this past year. Mobilization of our soldiers and airmen has been tremendously high paced. We need to realize that this procedure of mobilization is going to remain constant for many years to come. During the upcoming year we need to prepare for the reconstituting of our returning soldiers and airmen with their rear units and their families. We must, as an organization, welcome back our returning soldiers and airmen as True Heroes and Patriots. All continue to perform their duties in an outstanding manner.

The Connecticut Army National Guard is getting ready to mobilize the 118th Medical Battalion on December 7, 2003. I observed the Soldier Readiness Process at Camp Rowland and I was proud of the professionalism all the soldiers displayed during the processing. All the soldiers were highly motivated in getting prepared for the mobilization. I am impressed by the soldiers that volunteered to fill vacancies in the unit. I commend them all for stepping up to the plate at a time that our nation needs their help. I wish them a safe deployment and Godspeed for a safe return to Connecticut and their families.

We must also recognize the Family Support Program that deals with the day-to-day issue of our deployed soldiers' families. I'd personally like to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Kim Hoffman and her staff for the tremendous job they have done every day. The Family Support Program has performed magnificently in supporting our deployed soldiers' families. They have been instrumental in the success of all the family readiness groups meetings, dinners and special activities throughout the current deployments. I am proud to say that I am confident that Connecticut has the best Family Support Program in the National Guard. Non-deployed units need to get on board and establish Family Support Groups in their units now. This will prepare the unit for a deployment in the upcoming years. Families are the greatest resource our soldiers and airmen have while they are deployed. If a deployed soldier or airmen has problems at home, they cannot concentrate on their mission. Lack of concentration on the mission will cause mistakes and injury to our deployed soldiers and airmen.

Happy Holidays! As we begin the Holiday Season, I want to extend to each and every Connecticut Army and Air National Guard member and their family my sincerest and

best wishes during this Holiday Season. A special wish goes out to all the deployed soldiers and airmen and their families. And I want to also send out best wishes during this holiday season to all our retired Connecticut Army National Guard soldiers and airmen. I thank you all for your service!

Every year the holiday season is a time for family gatherings, spending precious moments with anxious children, and catching up with close friends. This year many members of the Connecticut National Guard will do just that. But for our deployed comrades, life will be different this year. They will not have the same opportunities as us here at home. They will be hard at work. They will be doing the daily tasks that our mission requires in other lands to win a lasting peace. They will put their country first and sacrifice their personal desires to make the world a better place. During the joyous days ahead, I encourage you to keep our brother and sister soldiers and airmen in your thoughts and prayers. No matter their rank, they all serve with distinction and pride. I also urge you to get involved with and stay focused on your families and your full time jobs. By doing these things every day it will honor our deployed comrades. It will ensure that the American way of life that they swore to protect and defend continues. As the senior enlisted representative to the Adjutant General, I know that I would be remiss if I did not extend to you my heartfelt appreciation for your membership in our organization. You are all a vital part of our present and our future. Remember that our mission has always been two fold. Since the days when citizen soldiers first picked up arms to defend their neighbors, Connecticut soldiers have answered the call to duty, wherever they were needed. We need to continue to honor our commitments to both our state and our national defense. We have always been successful as stalwarts in our ability to be there in times of need. Our country needs us now more than ever. We must always be ready! During the upcoming holidays remember all of the Americans that look to us to keep our country safe. I know together we can get through these historic times. It is our sworn duty. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. May you and your family have a blessed and joyous holiday season. And please, make it a safe one, please don't drink and drive and please don't forget to wear your seatbelt!

God Bless all our Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Coastguardsmen and God Bless the United States of America.

Perspectives

Since finding out your unit was being deployed, what have you done to prepare yourself, your family and your employer?



PV2 KELLY L. ETCHETO
118TH ASMB

"I have spent a lot of time with my four-year old daughter talking to her and preparing her."



SPEC. ANGELICA J. WARD
118TH ASMB

"I have been preparing mentally more than anything else. Every day it sinks in more, I am going to Iraq."



SGT. 1ST CLASS DAVID W. LEWIS
143RD FSB READINESS NCO

"Being back with the 118th is like being home again. Once you have deployed once you look at things with a different perspective. It has been short notice, but my wife was prepared."



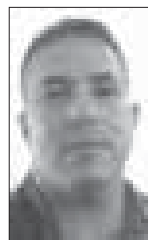
PV2 STEVE M. MARTIN
118TH ASMB

"I have spent a lot of time with family and friends and doing things I enjoy."



SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN M. POLONIO
118TH ASMB

"It is different this time. I am married and have a house. My family understands and is supportive, being AGR my family expects things like this. It is the longevity of this one that is harder."



Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: Leading the way by example

CAPT. ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
DDR

The Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program is a great service to the state of Connecticut. The reason it is such an important service is because of the Citizen Soldiers that serve their country and communities 24 hours a day.

Two soldiers that have worked with the Connecticut National Guard Drug Demand Reduction program (DDRP) for several years are Staff Sgt. Jason Houle and Sgt. Juan Reyes; they are leaving DDRP in order to serve their country overseas in support of Operation Iraq Freedom. Both soldiers have been members of the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion since they joined the Connecticut National Guard.

Houle and Reyes have touched the lives of tens of thousands of youth that have participated in various Drug Demand

Reduction Programs over the years. They are two soldiers that exemplify and teach courage, candor, competence and commitment.

These are the basic leadership traits that every noncommissioned officer learns early in a career, these soldiers were born with it.



They figure out the mission immediately, find the best course of action and lead the way.

They have become mentors to youth in the communities of the State of Connecticut; caring and kindness are attributes that they have shown many youth throughout the state of Connecticut. These two soldiers know their job, they're honest about the things they do and they have the courage to drive on and do the things that have to be

done. They have done a lot for our programs, for the Army and for the nation; they are sincere, generous and willing to sacrifice their lives in the War Against Terrorism.

That's not something you can fake; they live and breathe the Army National Guard every day. They have been committed to family, youth and education within Connecticut's communities, and to their service to the 118th Area Support Medical Battalion and their country.

The Drug Demand Reduction Program will greatly miss their presence and leadership in reaching out to the children of Connecticut with anti-drug messages. They have spent countless hours of their time, patience and knowledge with our various youth programs, overnight camps, weekend retreats and weeklong camps during the summer and throughout the year. They have made an impact and positively influenced thousands of youth in the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Program, a weeklong leadership camp at Camp Rowland with an emphasis on drug prevention,

physical fitness and leadership.

They have also taught the Parent-to-Parent program that focuses on helping parents with the tough job of raising children. They have also been on numerous Aviation Role Models for Youth (A.R.M.Y.) flights showing the positive effects of a



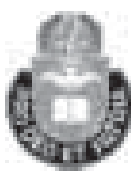
healthy lifestyle. They inspire youth to aim high, study hard and stay drug free. They have also made numerous contributions to the United States Attorney's Office and the six Department of Justice Weed and Seed Sites throughout the State of Connecticut.

We look forward to their safe return and will keep in touch with them throughout their experiences in support of Operation Iraq Freedom. If anyone would like to email or stay in contact

with Houle or Reyes please contact the Drug Demand Reduction Program at 860-493-2724.

Chaplain's

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CHAPLAIN (MAJ. KEVIN P. CAVANAUGH)

Do you know someone who is thinking about committing

suicide? Would you be able to recognize the signs?

You can't tell by appearances. All kinds of people - young, old, rich, poor, male, female, officers, NCOs, enlisted, civilians, every race and every creed - can be suicidal.

Why? Because their problems seem overwhelming. While what they're facing may not seem insurmountable to someone else, they are devastating to the suicidal individual. The suicidal response is not rational - but it may seem like the only way out. Suicide has been called a "permanent solution to a temporary problem," but sadly, in most cases, the victim was unable to grasp the temporary nature of his or her situation.

What can bring about suicidal feelings? Circumstances can range from poor job performance to the death of a loved one. Causes might include illness, serious injury, financial problems, failed relationships, humiliation, rejection and trouble with the law. To some the stress that accompanies

new military assignments, retirement, leaving old friends - even returning home from deployment - can initiate suicidal feelings. The individual's ability to cope is often inhibited by the disorienting effects of drugs or alcohol.

How can you know if someone is contemplating suicide? While it is impossible to know for sure, there are certain signs that demand attention.

The first of these is depression. While anyone can occasionally have a case of the blues, depression is defined as an abnormal emotional state - a profound sadness that is present nearly every day for at least two weeks. In 75 to 80 percent of all suicides, depression is a contributing factor.

Signs of depression include:

- * Dramatic changes in appetite or weight
- * Change in sleep habits
- * Behavioral agitation or a slowing of movement
- * Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities
- * Loss of energy, fatigue
- * Complaints or evidence of diminished ability to think or concentrate
- * Feelings of worthlessness, self-reproach or excessive guilt
- * Withdrawal from family and friends
- * Drastic mood swings

* Sudden changes in behavior

People contemplating suicide often give verbal clues, such as:

- * "I'm going to kill myself."
- * "I want to end it all."
- * "I want to die."
- * "I'm tired of life."
- * "Who cares if I'm dead anyway?"
- * "I can't go on anymore."
- * "You'd be better off without me."
- * "You won't have to worry about me anymore."
- * "Goodbye, I won't be here when you return."

Suicidal individuals often give behavioral clues, as well:

- * Buying a firearm
- * Stockpiling pills
- * Putting affairs in order
- * Developing sudden interest in wills, funerals and life insurance
- * Selling or giving away possessions
- * Neglect of appearance and hygiene
- * Themes of death in writing, music and art

What can you do?

Do
Get professional help; don't try to deal

with the situation yourself. Involve medical personnel, clergy, law enforcement or chain of command.

Remove lethal means of suicide.

Express your caring for the individual by staying with him or her.

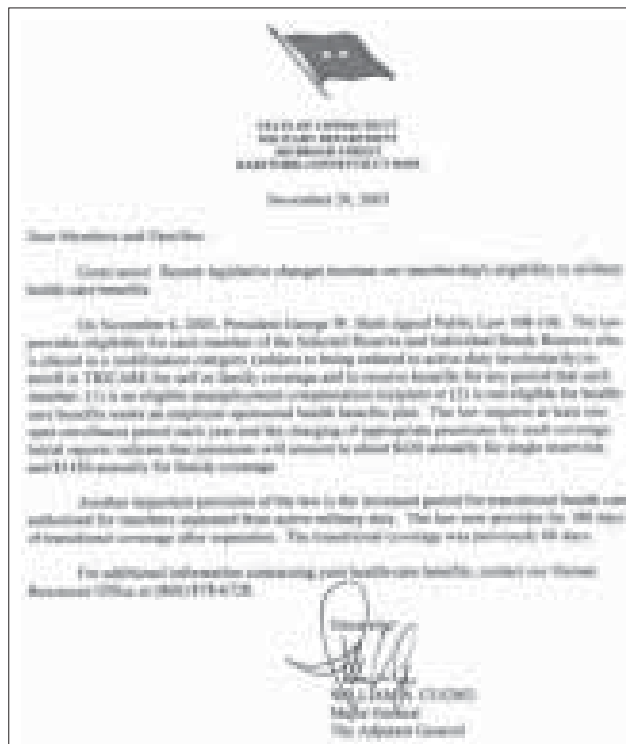
Don't

Panic, debate, moralize, leave him or her alone, be shocked, keep it a secret, minimize the person's concerns, ignore your instinct. If you think there's a problem, act!

The Bottom Line

Remember that anyone who is at risk for suicide needs help. It is always better to overreact than to fail to take action. It's better to have someone embarrassed or angry with you than dead. My own test has always been: If when I put my head on the pillow, I'm concerned about this person taking his or her life, then I need to get my head off that pillow and intervene.

People contemplating suicide need professional help - and fast! Chances are you are not equipped to give that help - but you can, and must, be aware of the warning signs and get the right people involved. It's up to every one of us to do God's work on earth - and God's work includes looking out for our buddies, co-workers and neighbors as best we can.



Web site focuses on 'Way Ahead'

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Nov. 26, 2003) — "The Way Ahead" Web site went online in November at <http://www.army.mil/thewayahead>, outlining the Army leadership's plan to increase wartime relevance and readiness and institutionalize a Joint and Expeditionary mindset.

"We are accelerating change to help our Soldiers and our nation fight the current war on terrorism," said Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee. The Army will reorganize its combat and institutional organizations, and redesign its formations to provide modularity and flexibility. It will also re-balance the Active and Reserve forces, and emphasize adaptability in leaders and Soldiers.

"The Way Ahead" Web site mirrors a pamphlet of the same name soon to be published, officials said.

To expedite change, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoemaker established focus areas to immediately channel Army efforts. "We are re-examining doctrine, training and systems to support joint and expeditionary capabilities, along with our ability to sustain land campaigns during war fighting and peacekeeping," he said.

Army agencies are finalizing plans for each of the focus areas below, with implementation decisions to be announced in the near future:

- * Develop flexible, adaptive and competent Soldiers with a warrior ethos.
- * Prepare future generations of senior leaders by identifying and preparing Army

leaders for key positions within joint, interagency, multinational and Service organizations.

- * Focus training at Combat Training Centers and in the Basic Command Training Program to meet requirements of the current security context and the Joint and Expeditionary team.

- * Train and educate Army members of the Joint Team.

- * Conduct a holistic review of Army Aviation and its role on the Joint battlefield.

- * Accelerate fielding of select Future Force capabilities to enhance effectiveness of the Current Force.

- * Leverage and enable interdependent, network-centric warfare.

- * Create modular, capabilities-based unit designs.

- * Retain campaign qualities while developing a Joint and Expeditionary Mindset.

- * Redesign the force to optimize the active and reserve component mix.

- * Ensure stability and continuity, and provide predictability to Soldiers and their families.

- * Provide intelligence to commanders with speed, accuracy and confidence to impact current and future operations.

- * Enhance installation ability to project power and support families.

- * Clarify roles and enable agile decision-making.

- * Redesign resource processes to be flexible, responsive and timely.

- * Tell the Army Story so that the Army's relevance and direction are clearly understood.

A new range for the future

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65th PCH

There is a new device that will be used as a simulator for Soldiers to improve their marksmanship skills at anytime and anywhere.

Soldiers from various units throughout the state were introduced to the Laser Mark Training System at Camp Rowland and were instructed on how to use the system to train fellow soldiers on how to improve their marksmanship.

The Laser Mark System is schedule to be issued to all units throughout the state.

The Laser Mark System will be used to train soldiers firing M-16A2 and other light weapons.

According to Maj. William M. DiCristofaro, State Area Command, state marksmanship coordinator, the new system will provide for sniper and M-60 training with instruction from a noncommissioned officer (NCO) or commissioned officer in charge (OIC) of training to improve soldiers marksmanship skills from the lower enlisted to the officers.

"The system can be designed to simulate different courses to improve skills such as zeroing a weapon, correcting breathing techniques, proper trigger squeeze and becoming familiar with different ranges from 25-meters to over 300-meters."

The system and training is designed for different skill levels. The first and second levels are called the Inter-Drive Fire and the third level is called the Alternate Course.

The Inter-Drive Fire provides for Soldiers to accurately determine problems with their aim, breathing or trigger squeeze. The system has a laser transmitter on the muzzle of a weapon. The transmitter shoots a red beam of light at a target while an instructor sits behind the student with a lap top computer that has a large diagram of the student's target on the computer screen.

Each time that the student fires the beam to the target, a copy of the actual hit is transmitted to the computer. An instructor can then stop the student and clearly show the student which technique to improve on.

The next level is known as the Alternate Course. This course can be configured to simulate a 300-meter firing range. The target in this course is called the reflective target.

At this level, Soldiers can be trained to understand the fundamentals of hitting center mass.

The course can be adjusted to simulate targets from 25-meters to over 300-meters, according to DiCristofaro.

"The Alternate Course provides for target practice against pop-up targets and/or sniper training."

Soldiers working with the Laser Mark System for the first time were impressed with the accuracy of the system.

"This is going to be a asset to us, this is a great system," said Staff Sgt. David Rivera, 102nd Infantry, training NCO. "This piece of equipment can get a Soldier prepared before going to the range. Also, this system is perfect to help recruits learn the basic skills of marksmanship before going to basic training."

The system impressed other Soldiers as well.

"I worked three days on the Laser Mark System and found it to be very helpful to improve my aim and trigger squeeze. This system can help those soldiers who want to score expert in the future," said PFC Gary L. Henderson, 208th Personnel Service Detachment, administrative support specialist.

This system will save the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) time and money, according to DiCristofaro.

"Instead of getting vehicles and driving many miles to ranges, the system can be set-up almost anywhere at no time at all."



Soldiers have begun learning the basics of the new Laser Mark System to improve marksmanship. The newly trained Soldiers will be able to train their unit members on the system. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *The role of a Legal Specialist*

SPEC. NICHOLAS O'DELL
LEGAL SPECIALIST

Like all soldiers' missions, the role of a 27D legal specialist changes as the mission changes. Legal specialists in field units assist and advise their commanders with the proper legal procedures that may be required depending on the situation.

Other legal specialists, like myself work directly for the Staff Judge Advocate at the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ-CT).

My responsibilities are different in that most of the responsibilities that I have are legal. I assist all Judge Advocates with whatever legal discipline they are conducting at the time whether it is military justice, legal assistance or administrative law.

Military justice matters are not as common as soldiers may think. Non-Judicial punishment, also known as Article 15s, are handled at the unit level and legal specialists' responsibilities would be to assist unit commanders with the proper paperwork and answer any possible questions they may have on the procedure.

Court-martials in Connecticut are rare because the Uniform Code of Military Justice only applies to soldiers performing duties under Title 10, United States Code.

The Connecticut Code of Military Justice does in fact contain court-martial

proceedings, however, for soldiers who are charged with misconduct in the Connecticut National Guard today, the legal proceedings against them will most likely be of an administrative nature.

For a soldier to have the rights to an administrative board proceeding they must satisfy one of these three criteria: the soldier must have at least six years of service, the soldier must be an NCO or higher, or the soldier is facing the possibility of an other than honorable discharge.

Administrative proceedings can either be reduction in grade or separation from the Army. The role of a legal specialist in these proceedings would be to report the board proceedings in a summarized manner. The legal specialist would sit in on the administrative board proceeding and take notes on the board proceedings.

After the board proceeding would conclude, a summarized version of the proceeding would be required. The summary would have to be detailed in who was present, what kind of administrative board it was, where the board took place, when the board was convened, why the board was convened and how the proceeding was conducted.

As previously mentioned, when the mission changes, so does the role of a legal specialist. When units are alerted and

mobilized for active duty, they are entitled to have legal documents offered to them. When the mobilization exercises occur, the JAG station offers soldiers worksheets that allow them to choose what kind of legal documents that they want afforded to them. With these worksheets come many questions and concerns.

As a legal specialist, I can assist fellow soldiers who may have basic questions about what legal documents they may want and what those specific documents do. When the soldiers fill out the worksheets describing their information and what kind of documents they require, legal specialists, along with the Judge Advocates, would create the legal documents for the soldiers.

Depending upon personnel and time restraints for the mobilization exercises, legal specialists may be tasked to be witnesses for the legal documents prepared for the soldiers.

The corps of 27D legal specialists is relatively small in the Connecticut Army National Guard, however we play a key role in assisting both commanders and JAG officers in ensuring that all conduct within the Connecticut National Guard is held to its highest legal standard at all times.



Bush signs defense authorization act

From Page 1

and this bill keeps those commitments," Bush said.

The legislation helps America remain prepared and fully equipped for unseen challenges. "In our new struggle, challenges can emerge suddenly, and so we must always be ready," Bush said.

The bill fully funds operations and maintenance accounts and amends some environmental laws that had an adverse effect on realistic training for America's military.

"The Congress has authorized the full \$9.1 billion that I requested for ballistic-missile defense," Bush said. "The spread of ballistic-missile technology, along with the spread of weapons of mass destruction, is a terrible danger to America and the world. We must have the tools and the technologies to properly protect our people."

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld called the legislation "transformational." The president agreed.

"This bill also advances the vital work of transforming the personnel system for civilian defense workers so we can put the right person in the right job to meet the challenges we face," Bush said.

The department's nearly 700,000 civilian workers have been laboring under "a cumbersome, inefficient system designed for another century," Bush said.

The National Security Personnel System gives DOD managers the flexibility to place civilian workers where they are most needed without needless delay, Bush said. The bill reduces the time it takes to hire new people, introduces pay-for-performance bonuses and streamlines the promotion process.

"These are landmark reforms — the most ambitious of their kind in a quarter of a century," Bush said. "To win the war on terror, America must fully utilize the skill and talents of everyone who serves their country, and this bill will help us achieve that goal."

Bush said everyone associated with the Defense Department is involved in a great and historic task.

"And the stakes for our country could not be higher," he said. "We face enemies that measure their progress by the chaos they inflict, the fear they spread and the innocent lives they destroy."

"America's military is standing between our country and grave danger," Bush said. "You are standing for order, hope and democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. You're standing up for the security of all free nations and for the advance of freedom. The American people and your commander in chief are grateful."



RONALD E. LEE, 1st SGT. (RET.), USAR
CT-ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

For the past few months we have heard varying stories about the morale of our military personnel in Iraq and other distant theaters. Some of these stories paint a bleak picture, saying that morale is low and that some troops are questioning whether or not they will stay in military service once they return to their units in the United States.

These reports are generally contradicted by the Bush administration and military commanders such as

Lt. Gen. Richard Snachez who was recently quoted in the "Stars and Stripes" saying, "There is no morale problem." All the while, reporters for the "Stars and Stripes" said that they conducted a non-scientific survey of troops in Iraq. Thirty-four percent of those who responded stated that morale was "low" or "very low" while 27 percent said morale was "High" or "very high". Virtually all of the rest called it "average."

Surely Saddam and Bin Laden are reading these same reports and feeling that they are getting the best of our military. Is morale among our troops a real or perceived problem?

As with everything we do in life there may be a good and a not-so-good (or bad) outcome. A flip of a coin results in "heads"

or "tails". The glass is either "half-full" or "half-empty."

The point I am trying to make is that our lives are, for the most part, dependant upon the choices we make. Something we must all remember is that this freedom of choice is one of the basic rights we enjoy: a right that has been won by the blood, sweat and tears of those who served before us. Our free choices often dictate where we will be, what we will be doing, and whether or not we will find happiness.

Everyone now serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, the Uniformed Services, or in any public safety occupation does so voluntarily and of their own choice. When taking the oath of office we acknowledged that we would follow orders of our superiors and defend the Constitution of the United States. This means that we will go where we are needed and do what needs to be done to protect our Country and our freedom.

We may not always agree with what we have to do but we must not fail in our mission. Granted, the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve components have served for years based on the premise of "one weekend a month and two weeks a year" of active service. Before 9/11/01 no one believed that the Guard and Reserve would be activated and deployed for years on end.

Morale, a real or perceived problem?

Although it was always a part of our mission, many assumed that it would never happen and now they are considering "getting out" as soon as possible to avoid future occurrences of this type. But what if everyone decided that they didn't want to serve in the military? What if everyone felt that his or her morale was too being adversely affected? We would not have a military without resorting to a draft and our national security would surely suffer.

At stake would be our freedom of choice among others!

So the next time someone asks about your morale or the morale of members of your unit, think about the message you will be sending before you answer. Think about the ESGR quotation, "Providing an adequate Defense requires those who are willing to serve and those who respect and support that service."

No matter how bad things are or how much you might disagree with what you are required to do, you are defending our fundamental freedoms. Try to be positive, try to support your fellow service members and the military. By doing so will help to change the perception that our troops have low morale and you will send a message to Saddam and Bin Laden that we will not be demoralized, we will not be broken, we will win!

Inside OCS

One Soldier's goal in OCS

OFFICER CANDIDATE PETER RAHINKAMP
OCS CLASS 49

When I first came to OCS I believed that an officer was the person that made all the decisions in the Army, and yet at the same time seemed to never do anything. Most of the officers that I had met previous to OCS always seemed to have a powerful presence, which is what I wanted to achieve. The only problem was I did not know what an officer really did.

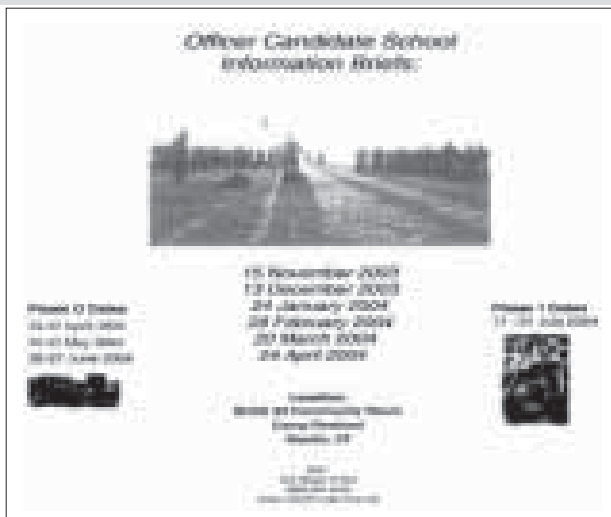
So I decided that I wanted to become an officer. I was told that to accomplish that goal I needed to attend a 15-month course called OCS. The unit that I was attached to at the time was holding a class on OCS. The only part of that class that I remember is a video clip where an officer candidate described OCS as "three different kinds of hell." So that phrase is what I expected to find when I reached OCS.

Hell was definitely the perfect word for

phases zero and one of OCS. When you first arrive you, are confronted with TAC officers, who make drill sergeants from basic training seem easy. TAC officers not only worked my body to its limits, but also my mind. The training officers at OCS sometimes seem to be heartless, but down deep they have a drive to make soldiers into officers.

My goals in OCS are to become a second lieutenant and also a platoon leader. When I reach my goals, I want to be able to lead men, who do not follow me because of my rank, but because they respect me, while also knowing that I will put their welfare first, in every decision I make.

OCS is giving me the necessary skills and classes that I need to have in order to be an effective leader. OCS is showing me that if I want to be a leader, I have to become a leader, and OCS is the environment that will make me one.



Why Diversity?

The importance of Religious Diversity

Sgt. 1st Class Scott J. Farrell
STATE DIVERSITY INITIATIVES COORDINATOR (SDIC)

The National Guard is becoming a religiously diverse organization. Increasingly, members are demanding the freedom to speak and practice the tenets of their religion in the workplace. Valuing religion without sanctioning a specific religion is the key to balancing religious diversity in the workplace. For example in this upcoming Holiday season it is important for all of us to realize that everyone in our unit does not practice the same religion or celebrate the same holidays, if they celebrate any at all. It is important to remember that it is a HOLIDAY celebration, not a Christmas party.

We would not want to offend anyone during this time of celebration just because we were not sensitive to these simple things. We need to have Religious Tolerance.

Religious Tolerance means....

The right of people to hold religious beliefs that are strange to us, without hindrance, harassment, or oppression.

Religious tolerance does not require you to accept other religions as true. Religious tolerance does not necessarily mean religious indifference. The world would be a much better place in which to live if everyone were religiously tolerant. Tolerance is only the first step towards actively enjoying the diversity that other faith groups contribute to society. But it is the step that many people have yet to take.

Religious diversity is difficult to achieve

because it relates to the morals and beliefs that a members holds. As with other types of diversity, the best approach is to educate yourself, to be sensitive to the beliefs of others and to avoid stereotyping.

Along with Religious tolerance comes religious Accommodation. It is DoD policy that requests for accommodation of religious practices should be approved by commanders when accommodation will not have an adverse impact on military readiness, unit cohesion, standards, or discipline.

Religious practices that could have conflict with military duties:

- Worship practices
- Dietary Practices
- Medical Practices
- Wear and appearance of the uniform
- Personal grooming

By accepting each other's religious differences we are fostering mutual respect for our co-workers that is integral to the functioning of our organization.

If you have an interest in being part of the Diversity Initiatives team please contact me at (860) 878-6718 or E-Mail at scott.farrell@ct.ngb.army.mil

Thought of the Month

Ultimately, America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity, the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired.

John F. Kennedy

Discrimination, harassment hot line available

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force's hot line for reporting unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment remains open for business.

The quickest method to resolve complaints is by visiting the local base military equal opportunity or the equal employment office, Air Force Personnel Center officials said.

"But the hot line is here for anyone who thinks they need to call, whenever they need to call," said Greg Den Herder, the personnel center's executive director.

"We take the Air Force's 'zero-tolerance' policy for sexual harassment and discrimination very seriously," said Lt. Col. Lee Shick, chief of center's field activities.

The phone numbers are toll free (800) 616-3775, DSN 665-5000 or commercial (210) 565-5000.

People overseas without easy access to overseas lines can e-mail contact.center@randolph.af.mil, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil to send Web mail or chat live with a customer service representative.

Letters can also be sent to the MEO office at HQ AFPC/DPSFOS, 550 C Street West Post K, Randolph AFB, TX 78150.

Officials said they accept calls from active-duty airmen, their family members,

retirees, civilian employees and cadets at Air Force commissioning sources.

Callers with a discrimination or sexual-harassment concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor.

The counselor explains the options to pursue a complaint. All complaints are channeled to the proper authority, officials said.

Cases can be referred for investigation — in most cases to the local commander and MEO or EEO office officials.

Counselors take calls Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. After hours voice mail takes messages. Counselors return phone calls the following duty day, officials said.

For emergencies, people should contact a supervisor, commander, command post or the police, officials said.

(Courtesy of AFPC News Service)



Health & Fitness

Your Health Matters: *Snore no more?*

MAJ. SHIRLEY SAMY
HEALTH PROMOTIONS OFFICER, 103rd MEDICAL GROUP

Do those over-the-counter snoring remedies work? These are the so-called cures you see on late-night TV infomercials while your sleeping partner snores away.

Experts estimate that nearly 60 million adults snore, an annoyance that can lead to marital discord, social problems, and even homicide. Snoring can also be an indicator of obstructive sleep apnea, a potentially life-threatening condition when breathing stops during sleep.

Habitual snoring – by up to 50 percent of men and 30 percent of women – is a symptom of sleep-disordered breathing and stems from vibration of anatomical structures of the upper aerodigestive tract while sleeping.

Traditional treatments for snoring can range from weight loss to a change in sleeping patterns to surgery. Many patients

decline to seek a surgical solution or change their lifestyle to solve their snoring problem.

Researchers at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center in San Antonio, looked at three snore remedies: the lubricating mouth spray (Snorenz), nasal dilator strips (Breathe Right Strips) and an ergonomically shaped pillow (Snore-No-More).

Special devices measured snoring along with questionnaires by study participants and their sleeping partners.

Results: No difference. No effect. These so-called remedies do not work. But try this one: sew tennis balls onto the back of the snorer's pajamas. He or she won't be able to sleep comfortably on the back and thus may not snore. Of course this doesn't work when out in the field so the bottom line is weight loss. Total body weight loss is one of the best solutions to snoring. If you've already tried this, see your health care provider for more options.

Army to enforce seatbelt use with 'Click It or Ticket'

SGT. 1ST CLASS MARCIA TRIGGS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 1, 2003)—Drivers and passengers who get caught on Army posts not wearing a seatbelt during the holiday season can expect harsher penalties, according to officials at the U.S. Army Safety Center.

The Army is aggressively enforcing seatbelt use by joining the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Military police will issue tickets to drivers and passengers who are not buckled up. Along with the ticket, offenders at some installations can expect other penalties, such as suspension of their on-post driving privileges.

"The Army can and must take positive action to save the lives of our Soldiers and civilian employees," stated a message released to all Army activities Nov. 26 by Director of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. James

Lovelace. "We must increase seat belt use both on and off the installation."

Over the past three years the Army has lost 318 Soldiers in privately owned vehicle accidents, and a significant number of those Soldiers were not wearing seatbelts, according to the message.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld formed the Defense Safety Oversight Council earlier this year, and has challenged all Defense agencies to reduce the number of accidents and injuries recorded in 2002 by 20 percent in fiscal year 2004 and 50 percent in 2005.

One way the Army is hoping to decrease its accident numbers is by displaying zero tolerance when people disregard seatbelt laws during holiday weekends.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign will run from Dec. 21 through Jan. 3 and over all of the 2004 national holiday weekends.

Fit for Life: *Too stressed for fun? Try a new working out for relief, fun*

1st LT. VINCENT F. BELLIZZI
103rd CHEMICAL COMPANY, NOBLE EAGLE III
MFT, HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT/
INSTRUCTION, AFAA TRAINEE

Every morning many of us rise and immediately bombard ourselves with a quick rundown of the day's impending activities.

Many of us rush to take a shower, get the kids to school and ourselves to work on time.

Others may drag themselves out of bed, not to meet work deadlines but to the sound of a little one saying, "Mommy/Daddy, I wanna..."

Lots of us want to hit the "snooze" button or hide under the sheets so no one can see us all in the effort of catching a few extra Z's.

More than ever Americans are tired, stressed and spent. We are so busy that even the simple tasks can seem challenging.

We've overextended ourselves to the point where things and people are not fun or interesting anymore.

We've cramped so much into our schedules that free time or leisure are ideas long forgotten. The result is stress - lots of stress.

Stress is a complex, dynamic process of interaction between a person and their life. Stress affects the way we react physically, mentally and emotionally to the various conditions, changes and demands of life.

Different people respond to stress differently whether it's acute or chronic stress.

Acute stress is when your body responds to a perceived threat. Your body releases

chemicals that increase your heart rate and breathing, while providing a quick burst of energy, known as the "fight-or-flight response."

With chronic stress, the body's response depends on the duration and severity of the stress and how you act.

This type of stress plays a role in many health problems, to include coronary artery disease, diabetes, depression, hypertension and asthma.

So, how do we avoid stress? We don't – it's part of everyday life. It's how we manage our stress that matters.

Fortunately, there are many techniques to relieve stress. These include physical activity and exercise, massage, breathing exercise and muscle relaxation.

Physical activity can include walking briskly, running, biking, swimming, soccer, etc... Studies suggest that increased and sustained cardiovascular elevation for 20 to 60 minutes, three to five times a week, will result in optimal fitness.

Cardiovascular exercise strengthens your heart and lungs. These two vital organs bear the brunt of the body's physiological stress response.

Making them stronger means your body can better cope with sudden fight-or-flight response that occurs when your boss calls

you into his/her office or when your girlfriend brings up marriage at her parents' house during a holiday meal and they all look at you waiting for a response.

Let's not forget that exercise improves physical appearance, enhances self-esteem and self-confidence.

It also gives you more energy and a better ability to concentrate. Additionally, it enhances your

mood for up to two hours after your workout.

Don't forget about the improved quality of sleep, which in turn gives us a reduced stress reactivity (not getting as stressed out about things as you usually do).

Lastly it helps to relax tense muscles that are as tight as a spring by the end of the day.

Of course this seems easier said than done. Often times when we feel stressed and time is tight, the first thing to go is exercise.

Making a commitment to you to lower your stress level is mandatory – not optional. Choose an activity suited to your

personality.

If you want to be alone, go for a run. If you like the social environment, take a group fitness class.

Here are some tips to stay committed.

If you are not an exerciser, start slowly with 10 to 15 minutes twice a week and build up from there.

Snag a workout partner – there is nothing like the motivation of another sweaty friend to keep you going.

What my girlfriend and I do is try to workout together at least three times a week. It's fun, we get to see each other, it's something we do together and who better to encourage and cheer you on than the one who loves you the most.

Let your family and friends know that you are exercising for your health.

Lastly, make your workout a regular and real part of your schedule.

It's that important!

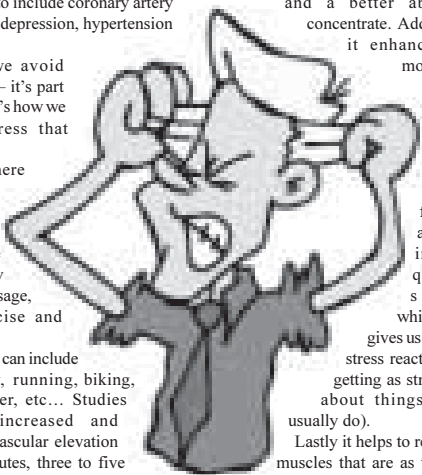
Do not to use a pencil that you can later go back and erase. Pen them into your calendar just like you would a business meeting or appointment.

Remember, exercise should be fun. If you do not enjoy it, you probably won't continue to do it.

Find something you like and relish in its stress reduction benefits.

Speak with your Unit's Master Fitness Trainer (MFT) or Fitness Leader to get different ideas or browse the World Wide Web under health and fitness.

There are a lot of activities to choose from – try them out, diversify your fitness regime, but commit to keeping your Mind, Body and Spirit fit and smiling.



NCO's prepare for the lead

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65TH PCH

Soldiers wanting to improve their leadership skills and advance to a higher enlisted level can take advantage of the training and advisement for soldiers provided by the Connecticut Army National Guard. (CTARNG)

The 169th Leader Regiment provides programs to prepare Noncommissioned Officers (NCO's) for future leadership positions in the CTARNG.

In-processing for the Basic Non-Commission Officers Course (BNOCC) and the Advance Non-Commission Officers Course (ANOCC) was held at Camp Rowland, Niantic during the drill weekend of Nov. 15.

NCO's are placed in small group classes to provide for better individualized training because BNOCC and ANOCC is designed to build leadership skills as a squad and a platoon leader, according to 1st Sgt. Dan P. Morgan, 169th Leader Regiment, 2nd General Studies Battalion (GS).

"There are five BNOCC and three ANOCC classes in session that began on Nov. 14."

The Total Army School System (TASS) provides for the same class instruction as the active component, according to Morgan.

"BNOCC and ANOCC are conducted in two phases. The first phase trains Soldiers in common core tasks and the second phase trains Soldiers in their Military Occupation Specialty. (MOS)"

The classes are known as small group leadership training with staff known as small group leaders and senior small group leaders.

"There are between 12 to 16 students in each class," said Morgan.

According to Morgan, students will process personal paperwork and attend classes on the first day but all students must meet height and weight standards and be prepared to take the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) on the second day.

"I'm attending BNOCC so I can look forward to leading my troops. If I ever get activated, I want the confidence that I can bring all my people home," said Staff Sgt. Ingrid Y. Thomas, Combat Support Hospital, nurse.

"The classes are not extremely difficult but you have to follow the books and class instruction. You have to put the time in to study," said Morgan.

Anyone wanting more information about BNOCC or ANOCC can contact 1st Sgt. Morgan at (860) 851-9152.



Basic and Advanced NCO Courses are taught at Camp Rowland every year by instructors and staff of the 2nd General Studies Battalion, 169th Leadership Regiment. Staff and students come mainly from the Connecticut Army National Guard, but many are U.S. Army Reservists from Connecticut. Soldiers also come in from neighboring states and, for the past few years, members of the state militia have also attended the courses. All Guardsmen and Reservists hoping to be promoted to the next level, must successfully complete the appropriate Phase 1 of the NCO course they need before going on to their MOS-specific Phase 2. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

New program holds recruits for the future, improves skills

SPEC. JEFFREY AUSTIN
65TH PCH

The 169th Leader Regiment has created a program to prepare Soldiers for the challenges of basic and Advance Initial Training. (AIT)

Saturday, Nov. 15, began the first set of training classes for the 169th Leader Regiment Recruit Holding Company located at Camp Rowland, Niantic.

Initial entry and split-option Soldiers participated in a weekend drill that provided training in a field and classroom environment, learning and reviewing many different Army combat skills.

"This program was developed to better prepare Soldiers for basic training," said Maj. Vincent O'Neill, 169th Leader Regiment, S-3. "Some initial entry Soldiers may have some problems with physical training (PT) as well as height and weight standards, but by attending the holding company Soldiers will have the support of the Connecticut Army National Guard (CTARNG) to correct any problems they may have."

Originally, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) requested that all 50 states implement a Holding Recruit Company, according to O'Neill.

"We learned about this program in July and started it in November," said Lt. Col. Timothy W. Yahn, 2nd Battalion 169th Leader Regiment General Services (GS) commander.

"We want a Soldier to be fully prepared to join their unit once they completed the program," said Yahn.

Included in the program are skills such as: Performing as squad leaders, combat lifesaver course and the scheduled military driver course. In December, Soldiers will be joining their respective units for the annual holiday dinner, but Soldiers will return in January to continue the training.

While training at the Engage Training Simulator (ETS) and waiting to attend basic training, David Erazo Jr. expressed his thoughts about the program.

"This is something new," said Erazo. "My uncle was a former marine so I was raised to be motivated and to focus on my goals. The program is really good."

One sponsor of young Soldiers is Sgt. Heather R. Esposito, State Area Command (STARC), finance specialist. She agreed with Erazo about the program.

"This is the first weekend and everything is going good," said Esposito. "Sponsors are responsible to resolve problems such as: getting rides to and from drill, pay issues and receiving uniforms. We also plan to stay in contact with the Soldiers during basic and

advanced individual training.

The program is not only designed for Soldiers that have not attended basic training, but for Soldiers using the split-option, according to Sgt. 1st Class Colleen A. Smith, 169th Leader Regiment, personnel noncommissioned officer.

"This program will have Soldiers so far advanced at basic, they should have no problem with combat skills or classroom skills training at basic."

The program is separated into phase zero and phase one. Phase zero trains Soldiers to prepare for basic training and phase one is for Soldiers that had attended basic but need to continue training before attending AIT.

Fajona Cenolli is scheduled to attend basic training in June.

"I really like the program. The instructors really take their time to explain what you should do or what you did wrong," said Cenolli.

"The training program is design to handle 100 students or more," said Yahn. "As the classes become larger, we will institute a rolling carousel type of training. As some students leave the program other will begin training and this will be the challenge to get everyone trained."

To earn more about the Recruit Holding Company, Soldiers can contact the 169th Leader Regiment at (860) 524-4896.



Soldiers of the new Recruit Holding Company march in formation at Camp Rowland. (Photo by Spec. Jeffrey Austin, 65th PCH)

Retirees' Voice

Legislative update and a new voice speaking up for you and your rights

Sgt. 1st CLASS (RET.)
JOHN BEDNARZ

The Conference Report to H. R. 1588 has passed both the House and Senate and the Fiscal Year, 2004 National Defense Authorization Act goes to the President for his signature. By the time this is published he will have signed it and it will become law.

The bill provides only a partial solution to the problem of Concurrent Receipt. It will provide some financial gains to several hundred thousand retirees. Effective January 1, 2004, all 20-year military retirees with a Purple Heart, or combat-related disability (50 percent or more), including National Guardsmen and Reservists will be eligible for concurrent receipt. Their retired pay offset will be phased out over ten years, with their first monthly retirement increase early next year. The payment will increase each year until their full-retired pay is restored. They will be receiving about 95 percent of their retired pay along with their disability within six years. The rest, along with all future eligible disabled retirees will receive full payments by January 2014.

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) will also expand beginning in January to all military retirees with disability ratings of 10 percent or more, which are the result of combat-related circumstances, regardless of whether they were awarded the Purple Heart. If you feel that you are eligible for either of these programs, check with your retirement services officer.

The conferees also authorized the creation of a bipartisan commission, comprised of 13 members, to be appointed by Congressional leaders and the Administration, to make recommendations on the VA disability system. Of those members, more than half will be highly decorated combat veterans.

I guess we could complain that it falls short of full concurrent receipt, but it is another battle won, in that hundreds of thousands

of dollars will be going back to where they belong, into the pockets of the most needy veterans, our comrades. I am sure that those advocates for a more timely full concurrent receipt will continue to press for it.

The FY04 Authorization Act also addresses the concern of Congress that military care beneficiaries may be adversely affected by future base closures or realignment. The bill requires the establishment of a working group to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission on the impact to health care delivery, of any closure or realignment. The work group must provide a plan for continuing health care for individuals relying on facilities affected by the planned 2005 BRAC round. The group's responsibilities involve conducting meetings with members entitled to health care and visiting areas where base realignment and closures will affect the availability of health care for members.

Here is where I shift gears and make it miserable for the editor who concocts the caption for this column. It has come to my attention that several of the wives of National Guard Association of Connecticut members, are starting an Auxiliary of the association. If the announcement is not in this issue of the *Guardian*, it will be, soon enough. I would like to recommend membership to all the retiree's spouses. I am pressuring my wife to join, and I may even buy her a life membership. As I explained to her, even if she can't devote a lot of time to the organization the old 'strength in numbers' adage is true. When we approach a Congressman and ask for something, it's more meaningful to say I represent a thousand people than to say I represent two people.

It's even better if you want to, and can be, involved.

Do you know these guys?



USP&FO Staff members celebrate the Christmas holidays.

If you have a picture of historical nature to share with our readers, email if possible to debby.newton@ct.ngb.army.mil or mail to Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton, Public Affairs Office, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795.

ATTENTION SHOOTERS!

Announcing The CNGB Indoor Combat Pistol and Rifle Matches

Open to ALL members of the
Connecticut Army & Air National Guard
(Limited to the first 90 registrants per event)

Two events: M16 A2 Rifle and M9 Pistol
(Using .22 caliber conversion kits at 50 feet)

Location: US Coast Guard Academy - New London, CT

Dates: Saturday 13 December 2003 and Sunday 14 December 2003 (Pistol and Rifle)

You will be assigned your relay consisting of a one-hour shot. Weapons and ammunition will be provided. One-hour relays begin at 0900 through 1400 each day.

Register: By e-mail indicating which event you wish to compete in and include your name, rank, unit and phone number. Also, state what time you prefer to compete. We will contact you once registered.

Send: Registration to william.district@usaa.army.mil



LEADS

Locating Enlistments by Awarding Dedicated Service

This is a statewide incentive program to reward all CTANG members who produce a lead which becomes enlisted into the guard.

Program will run from

1 Oct 2003 to 30 Sep 2004

Incentive Award Items

- **1 Lead-Enlistment** = Logo apparel award items
- **2 Leads-Enlistment** = Camoflask and Polo shirt
- **3 Leads-Enlistment** = Impact AAM + Gerber Multi Tool or Bear Fire Flashlight or Jungle Boots etc...
- **4 Leads - Enlistment** = Garmin GPS or Motorola Two-Way Radio Set
- **5 Leads - Enlistment** = Impact ARCOM + Assault Pack
- **6 Leads - Enlistment** = Trip to Chief's M Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C.

Camp Rowland Post Exchange

Start Your Christmas Shopping Early!!!

New toys, gloves, hats, rock salt, shovels, snow blowers. And much, much more!!

New merchandise arriving weekly!!!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season from all of us at the Camp Rowland PX.



Coming Events

December

Dec. 6

Army/Navy Football Game
Philadelphia

Dec. 7

Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 8

118th Send-off Ceremony

Dec. 13

Army National Guard Birthday

Dec. 19

Hanukkah begins at sundown

Dec. 25

Christmas

Dec. 26

Kwanzaa begins

January

Jan. 1

New Year's Day

Jan 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

Feb. 16

Presidents' Day

March

March 13-16

EANGUS Legislative Workshop

March 20

NGACT Annual Conference and Ball

March 26

Women's History Celebration

March 27

EANGUS Area 1 Caucus

In future issues

Consumer Credit Counseling

Year in Review

Volunteer Firefighters in the Guard

State Dept. of Veterans Benefits

UCONN Football player serves his country

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

Season's Greetings!



Santa's enlisted helpers are everywhere, including in the desert with the 1109th AVCRAD. First Sgt. Daniel Joyce, Master Sgt. Ruben Garcia, Staff Sgt. Michael Bannon and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Breland get into the holiday spirit in hats sent to them by Joyce's family, Mary, Danielle and Kristen. (Photo courtesy Master Sgt. Ruben Garcia, 1109th AVCRAD)



Sergeants Alexander and Justine Morales ran into each other in Baghdad in August. Justine is with the 248th Engineers was traveling through Baghdad when she saw a vehicle bumper marked "CTARNG 143rd MP." Thinking she'd meet up with someone who knew her husband, Alexander (a member of the 143rd), she approached the vehicle only to find her husband sitting inside. The couple had been married in January, shortly before Alexander had left for the desert, and this was the first time they had seen each other since. (Photo courtesy of the Morales family)



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